Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-009
Thursday
14 January 1993

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief's 'Regret, Worry' Over Air Strike on Iraq

NC1301213293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2111 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—Commenting on the aerial attack on Iraq today, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said we feel regret and worry that Iraq, which is an Arab League member, is exposed to an aerial attack by three Western countries, threatening Iraq and the security of an Arab people about whom we are fully concerned. In a statement this evening, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that if the incentive for this attack is the implementation of Security Council resolutions, the Arab world can only wonder what these countries would do if Israel continues to refuse to implement Security Council Resolution 799, which provides for the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homes. These deportees are living in the wilderness under harsh circumstances.

Islamic Affairs

Pakistani Senate Official Speaks at ICO Meeting

BK1201152793 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan has called for concerted and unified efforts to resolve the problems confronting the Muslim ummah [community]. The call was made by Chairman of Senate Mr. Wasim Sajjad while addressing the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] bureau emergency meeting in Dakar. PTV correspondent Sarwar Munir Rao reports from Dakar that in his wide-ranging speech, the chairman of the Senate dwelt at length on the issues of Palestine, Bosnia, Babri Masjid [mosque], and Kashmir which, he emphasized, were of immediate concern to the ICO.

On Kashmir, Mr. Wasim Sajjad said the ICO must pressurize India to end human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and allow Kashmiris to exercise their right of self-determination.

[Begin Sajjad recording] Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Islamic Conference Organization for its steadfast support for the valiant struggle of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir for their right to self-determination. The rising spiral of repression against the Kashmiri people takes on a new dimension in the present environment of heightened religious intolerance in India. The ICO must continue to remain fully seized of the situation and to use its moral and political influence to persuade India to put an end to the massive human rights violations of the Kashmiri people and to allow them to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination as mandated by the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. [end recording].

The chairman of the Senate and the president of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, during their meeting discussed matters of mutual interest. Mr. Izetbegovic apprised Mr. Wasim Sajjad of the latest situation in his country. He lauded Pakistan for its economic assistance to his country and its diplomatic efforts to end Serbian aggression against his country.

Mr. Wasim Sajjad also called on the president of Senegal, Mr. Abdou Diouf. He briefed him about the atrocities being committed by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. Challenges facing the Muslim ummah also came under discussion.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Denounces Air Strike Against Iraq

LD1401032493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Among the reactions to the allies' attack on Iraqi military targets, the PLO yesterday strongly denounced this aggression. It asked what prevents the allies from carrying out the same action against Israel so it will respect UN resolutions.

In a statement reported by the Palestinian news agency WAFA from Tunis, the PLO added that it followed the issue with profound concern, making clear that this aggression is a one-sided view of the implementation of UN resolutions.

Iraq Raid Denounced; Peace Talks To Be Boycotted

NC1401123593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1140 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks, denounced the Western attack against Iraq and held Saddam Husayn responsible for giving excuses to the Western alliance. He told our radio that the situation is ridiculous: As we witness this method of implementing UN resolutions, Israel violates and disregards all resolutions against it and yet goes unpunished.

On another topic, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said the bilateral peace talks with Israel have reached a deadlock. He said the Palestinians have decided to boycott the next round of talks until Israel complies with Resolution 799. He said:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Shafi] I cannot imagine our returning to the negotiating table before Israel observes Security Council Resolution 799 and the deportees return to their homes.

[Unidentified correspondent] So you will boycott the talks, Dr. Haydar?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes. We will not go to the talks as long as Israel continues its defiance of the Security Council

resolution and the deportees are not allowed to return to their homes. I cannot imagine anything that would force Israel to respect the Security Council resolution other than sanctions imposed by the Security Council and acknowledged by the Security Council permanent members, such as the United States, Britain, France, and the others. We are expecting measures to force Israel to respect international legitimacy and laws. It is inconceivable for Israel to continue its violations of Security Council resolutions without punishment. [end recording]

'Ashrawi on PLO Stance on Talks, Press Statement

TA1301202193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [AL-QUDS] Is there talk of conditions for Palestinian participation in any future round of talks?

['Ashrawi] No, we are not putting forward demands or conditions but requirements for any peace process that we would want to be genuine and to succeed.

[AL-QUDS] Have you received American promises in response to the Palestinian demands?

['Ashrawi] No. Until now we have not received any promises. We have held exploratory talks. I believe that we will clarify the Palestinian viewpoint and define the shortcomings of this process to the new U.S. Administration.

[AL-QUDS] Israel's ambassador in Washington has said that he has been promised by the U.S. Administration to use the veto in the United Nations against resorting to Article Seven in order to impose sanctions on Israel. What is your view?

['Ashrawi] We have asked the U.S. side about this issue and they assured us that they did not make such a promise to Israel. The U.S. side is trying to find a solution through the UN secretary general and his envoy and through exerting pressure on Israel so that there will be no need to reconvene the Security Council in accordance with Article Seven of the Charter.

[AL-QUDS] Does the United States acknowledge that the talks have reached a crisis?

['Ashrawi] Yes. They are also well aware of the Palestinian position and that it is difficult to talk about a peace process under the current circumstances.

[AL-QUDS] More than one statement has been made by members of the Palestinian delegation as well as by Palestinian officials to the effect that there will be no going back to the talks unless Resolution 799 stipulating the return of the deportees is implemented. What is your comment?

['Ashrawi] At present there is no talk about any round nor is there an upcoming round. I believe that it is premature to talk about an upcoming round because there are circumstances that have led to a halt of the process. Those circumstances must be addressed before talking about any upcoming round.

[AL-QUDS] Do you believe that the U.S. Administration will not call for an upcoming round as long as it does not feel that there are indications by everyone to accept this invitation?

['Ashrawi] Of course, but we say why preempt events. The major weak points of this process have to be modified before we talk about an upcoming round. At that time, it will be possible to talk about an upcoming round. Now it is impractical to talk about any round.

[AL-QUDS] Does this explain why no clear statement has been issued in the name of the Palestinian leadership or the delegation inside the occupied territories?

['Ashrawi] We are planning to issue a statement. Many individual statements have been made expressing personal views. There is no harm in this because those statements pursue the same line, but it is the PLO that makes a comprehensive political analyses of the situation.

[AL-QUDS] The PLO, however, has not issued such an analysis.

['Ashrawi] The stance has been announced through political statements by the leadership in Tunis, but it seems that the residents here are interested in domestic statements. Some statements were made outside that are improper for some individuals.

[AL-QUDS] Do you mean Nabil Sha'th, who called for separating deportation from the negotiations?

['Ashrawi] This reflects his own personal view, not the PLO's view.

[AL-QUDS] Which has not been announced yet?

['Ashrawi] The official stance was announced in several statements by president Yasir 'Arafat, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and official spokesmen. A statement will be issued inside the occupied territories that will convey the stance of the PLO and of the negotiating team to the peace conference.

Negotiating Team Issues Statement on Peace Talks

TA1301190993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Jan 93 pp 1, 12

[Text] The office of the official spokesman of the Palestinian team to the peace conference issued the following press statement yesterday:

The official and firm stance of the Palestinian team to the peace talks on the deportation issue and its repercussions on the political process totally adheres to the PLO decision announced on 17 December 1992 and as clarified by the Palestinian leadership in all official internal, Arab, and international meetings.

The deportation operation and collective banishment are among the most repugnant and harshest kinds of collective punishment and represent an escalation in Israel's practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, in its violation of the Palestinian people's human and national rights, and in its persistent defiance of international legitimacy and law. Israel is using these defenseless people as hostages and victims without any accountability or deterrence.

The recent campaign of deportation against more than 400 Palestinian residents from their homes, land, and homeland has dealt a mortal blow to the peace process and has brought it to a complete halt.

Israel bears full responsibility for the situation which the talks have reached, bearing in mind that the peace process had faced deadlock as a result of Israeli intransigence, positions, and proposals that contravene the aims and terms of reference of the peace process, summed up in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

Resumption of the peace talks necessarily requires the return of the deportees in implementation of Security Council Resolution 799 and the removal of all obstacles and causes for the failure of those talks.

The Palestinian side, which is committed to the peace process and its aims, does not see any possibility of resuming the talks before the deportees return to their homeland. If there is a real intent to realize peace in the region through the resumption of the talks, for the breakdown of which Israel bears responsibility, the deportees should be returned and a review and assessment should be conducted of the causes and the fault that prevented any progress in the process and which consequently has led to its collapse.

The unified stance and the decisive popular response to the deportation operation remain the greatest proof of the Palestinian people's resilience and resolve.

Among the basic requirements for reviving a genuine peace process based on international legitimacy and actual commitment to peace, we outline the following:

—Returning the deportees to their homeland in implementation of Security Council Resolution 799. This means committing Israel to international legitimacy represented in the Security Council resolutions and in implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied Palestinian lands. This requires curbing Israel and making it accountable and providing protection to the Palestinian people under occupation, thus ensuring a halt to all human rights violations beginning with the deportation operation and including the demolition of houses, torture of prisoners and detainees, seizure of land and resources, and all other sorts of collective punishment, including economic and political.

—Modifying Palestinian participation in the peace process wherein it will become comprehensive, representative, and legitimate through direct and official PLO participation, without any conditions and restrictions on the participation of Jerusalem or diaspora Palestinians.

—Reviewing the negotiating framework in light of the process's failure to achieve any progress as a result of Israeli intransigence and procrastination and the Israeli side's lack of commitment to the principles, terms of reference, and aims stipulated in and based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. This means reinforcing the principle of withdrawal from the occupied territories and linking the transitional stage with the final stage in order to prevent any bias in implementing Resolution 242 in the final stage.

—Activating the role of the sponsoring countries and having them bear their full responsibility as a third neutral party. This would allow them to intervene directly to ensure commitment to the principles and terms of reference and end continuing Israeli attempts to infringe upon and violate those principles and terms. They should create the elements and mechanism for accountability, commitment, and arbitration.

The Palestinian people, led by the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, are committed to a just peace that ensures their rights and is subject to international law and legitimacy. The Palestinian people have endured the hardship of deportation and the suffering of occupation with firmness and resolve. They are also confronting the challenge of peace with the confidence of a struggling people insisting on regaining right and justice. Despite the qualitative imbalance of forces and despite the deportation that came as a steep escalation in the occupation's repressive policy and practices and in its attempts to undermine the chances of real peace, we shall not refrain from struggling for the sake of the inalienable national rights of return, freedom, independence, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on national Palestinian soil.

'Ashrawi: No Talks Unless Deportees Returned

TA1301054893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The secretary general of the Labor Party and two Knesset members from the coalition met last night with members of the Palestinian negotiating team to the peace talks. The meeting, organized by the International Center for Peace in the Middle East, was attended by Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, Nisim Zvili, No'omi Haran, and Hayim Oron. Later, Dr. 'Ashrawi

told reporter Dani Gur-Arye that the Palestinians would not resume the peace talks unless the deportees are returned.

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] The fact is that the Palestinian side would not be able go to any negotiations or any rounds while the deportees are still outside the country. If the peace process is to be resumed then there should be an equitable solution to the deportation on the basis of implementation of Resolution 799.

[Gur-Arye] How did he respond to what you said were your conditions for continuing the peace talks?

['Ashrawi] Well, these were not negotiations. This was not a formal or official meeting. We were just presenting our point of view, they were presenting theirs, and therefore it would be counterproductive to talk about responses and counter responses. I mean, well they are fully aware of the fact that this has a very detrimental effect on the peace process.

[Gur-Arye] The idea of a meeting between members of the Palestinian negotiating team and Prime Minister Rabin has come up. Was this a stepping stone toward such a meeting?

['Ashrawi] I don't think so. This wasn't sponsored in a way as to prepare the ground for other meetings. We understand that there was an official public statement by Prime Minister Rabin for such a meeting with the delegation, but there has been no official request, and at the same time, we think it will be considered in due time if it is presented on the basis of a variety of considerations. [end recording]

'Abd-Rabbuh Issues Statement After Cairo Meeting

TA1301211393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Jan 93 pp 1, 15

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has affirmed that only the abolition of the deportation decision and the return of the 415 deportees will make it possible for Palestinian delegations to participate in the work of the multilateral conference committees as well as in the bilateral talks.

In a press statement upon the conclusion of the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo yesterday, 'Abd-Rabbuh added: We have conveyed this stance to all the Arab states, especially since most of them participate in the multilateral conference and its committees, which will convene on 9 February. Hence, we believe that all the Arab countries, including the Gulf states, have a direct interest in exerting intensive efforts in the coming weeks—alongside the PLO and the cordon states—to secure the return of the deportees so that it will be possible to convene the multilateral conference and resume the bilateral talks.

'Abd-Rabbuh lauded the position of some of the Arab states such as Algeria, which stressed that it cannot participate in the multilateral conference if the Palestinians do not take part in it. 'Abd-Rabbuh added: We believe that the other Arab states will adopt a similar stance.

The Palestinian official said that the Arab foreign ministers meeting had special significance in this respect, particularly by activating the Arab position as a pressure force to affirm that the entire peace process, in its bilateral and multilateral aspects, is now in grave danger because of the deportation operation and the iron fist policy. In fact, since the first moment of the deportation operation, the Palestinian stance has been that the bilateral and multilateral talks cannot continue under the current circumstances.

On the possibility of the U.S. use of the veto in the Security Council, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: This position will deal a new blow to the peace process and will end the evenhanded role which the cosponsors of the peace process are supposed to play.

'Abd-Rabbuh added: We will continue our intensive contacts and efforts in the coming days to convene the Security Council. Should the Council fail to adopt binding resolutions and measures either because of Israel's stance or the U.S. veto, we will call on the Arab foreign ministers council to reconvene within the next two weeks to discuss this grave development and adopt a unified Arab position on participation in the work of the multilateral conference.

The Palestinian official ended his remarks by saying: The PLO believes that the convocation of the Arab ministerial meeting in Cairo, with the participation of all the influential Arab states, has great significance from the viewpoint of restoring the unity of the Arab position in support of the Palestinian cause and the issue of the deportees under the current circumstances, as well as from the viewpoint of unifying this position regarding the peace process.

Group Vows Violence Unless Deportees Return

NC1301123893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1204 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Beirut, 13 Jan (MENA)—Several Lebanese newspapers received a statement today signed by the Palestinian Revolutionary Army Organization—Jerusalem [Munazzamat Al-Jaysh al-Thawri al-Filastini—al-Quds], calling for the deportees' prompt return and warning that if this does not happen, civilian Jews will be subjected to a reaction of an unforeseeable extent.

The statement added: Palestinian Revolutionary Army cells will put this into effect 96 hours after this call is issued today. We also set out the condition that we should begin to see the preliminaries of a solution through the deportees' return to their country without being put on trial by the Zionist enemy.

The statement demanded that the United States offer a public pledge to implement this decision. The statement

said the United States should do so as the major controller of the Zionist entity and threatened that if not, the world will be the scene of unprecedented violence.

The statement urged Arab countries to withdraw immediately from what it described as the capitulation farce.

UNLI-Hamas 'Coordination' Statement on Deportation

JN1301142793 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jan 93

["Text of joint statement on coordination" between the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, UNLI, and the Palestinian Resistance Movement, Hamas, "issued in the occupied Palestinian territory recently"]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. No voice can rise above the voice of the intifadah—call of the deportees.

We hold [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin and his fascist government responsible for the recent events, including the deplorable Israeli measures against our people, particularly the current onslaught on the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas; the siege imposed on our people in the occupied Gaza Strip; the arrests of thousands and the deportation of hundreds of our militant Palestinian people; and the perpetration of the horrible crime against our people in Khan Yunus, when the Israeli Army randomly opened fire on the citizens, killing six and injuring dozens. We hold Rabin and his fascist government, his policy of breaking bones, the killing of Palestinians, and the policy of mass expulsion, fully responsible for this and demand that Rabin be tried as a war criminal at an international court.

O steadfast people in the occupied territory. Coordination has been effected between the UNLI and Hamas by unifying the steps and escalating jihad in various forms to return the brother deportees and resist the oppression of the occupation. Accordingly, the UNLI and Hamas ask all the groups and denominations of the masses of our Palestinian people to carry out the following activities:

1. Cancel the general strike which the UNLI and Hamas had called for, and replace the strike days by days of comprehensive escalation.

2. Stage indefinite strikes at the International Committee of the Red Cross, particularly at its central office in our capital, holy Jerusalem.

3. Stage marches and demonstrations throughout the occupied homeland in support of the Palestinian deportees and detainees.

4. The UNLI and Hamas call on the strike forces and the [stone] throwing hands to coordinate on the field to crown the unified action in order to burn the land beneath the feat of the soldiers of the oppressive Israeli occupation.

5. The UNLI and Hamas salute the stand of the Lebanese Government, which refused to receive our deported brothers, and appeal to the Lebanese and Palestinian massed to erect a human wall to stop the occupation forces from compelling our people at gun point to cross into the Lebanese territory.

6. The UNLI and Hamas call on our people to express solidarity with the families of the deportees and detainees. We salute the steadfastness of our Palestinian people and bless their patience and jihad. We also appreciate the Arab, Islamic, and international denunciation and condemnation of the deportation of our strugglers.

God is great. Praise be to God. Long live our people's glorious intifadah.

UNLI-Hamas 'Political Statement'

JN1301143493 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Jan 93

["Text of joint political statement" issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, UNLI, and the Palestinian Resistance Movement, Hamas, "issued in the occupied Palestinian territory recently "]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And hold fast all together by the rope which God stretches out for you and be not divided among yourselves. [Koranic verse] Let all the Palestinian efforts merge to confront all the Zionist plots against our Palestinian people.

Masses of our militants people. Israel has committed a new most grotesque and unjust crime by expelling more than 400 Palestinian citizens from their homes to face unknown fate, holding all human values in contempt and violating all international norms. Israel has justified its action by saying that it is fighting Palestinian terrorism. Israel has been committing the most heinous crimes against our people by expelling them from their homeland and by killing our men, women, and children in cold blood. The cries of our martyrs are still reverberating in the air of Dayr Yasin, Kafr Qasim, Qibyah, Khan Yunus, al-Burayj, and many other areas.

By perpetrating the mass expulsion of the strugglers of the Hamas movement and the Islamic Jihad Organization, Israel has escalated its repressive terrorism against our people in an attempt to split national ranks and divide our political groups into terrorists and capitulationists. The Zionist media's daily psychological and propaganda war is an attempt to split our ranks. Israel has erred in this evaluation. The dimensions of this heinous crime has expanded and the Palestinian unity has been strengthened in an unprecedented manner in facing the Zionist enemy.

Israel's rejection of the resolutions of international legitimacy and its continuous threats to all the strugglers of our Palestinian people is aimed at sending fear to the hearts of the Palestinian masses. The sieges, security

cordons, curfews, and the recent Khan Yunus massacre are flagrant examples of the organized Israeli terrorism against our Palestinian people's groups and political organizations.

Israel has blatantly affirmed that the peace which it seeks to realize through negotiations is to entrench the occupation and the submission of our struggling people and make them face the reality of the Zionist force of terror. Our people, with all their organizations and groups, are determined to continue the struggle until the realization of the national aims of return, self- determination, and the establishment of the Palestinian state.

The UNLI and Hamas affirm the following:

1. The Israeli Government and the Israeli rightist [as heard] alliance, Meretz, have revealed the ugly face of the opportunistic Israel Zionist policy before the world by perpetrating the crime of mass deportation against more than 400 Palestinian citizens. This is a prelude to uprooting our people from their land.

2. Israel's crime of mass deportation and the killing of our children and youths in cold blood, the curfews, and the starvation imposed on the occupied Gaza Strip is flagrantly opposed to the peace sought by our Palestinian people. Therefore, we ask the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people, to take all the appropriate measures to deal with the negotiations process by new methods and reevaluate this experiment to serve the national interests in the future.

3. We call on the Palestinian people to close ranks and fight the occupation relentlessly, and demonstrate national capability and unity in all its forms.

4. We ask the international community and all peace-loving states to work for the safe return of the deportees to their homes.

5. We call for implementing UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution 799 pertaining to the return of the deportees, and imposing all sanctions against Israel if it fails to implement international legitimate resolutions.

Hamas Spokesman on Deportees, Peace Process

PM1301144493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jan 93 p 6

[Interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement), by Salamah Ni'mat in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ni'mat] Your position on the deportees issue is well known. But there are developments in the situation, especially with regard to the proposal concerning transferring the deportees to another state or a third party.

[Ghawshah] Our position is still the same: Just as the deportees were moved out of their homes and from among their families, we believe there is only one way, namely their return to Palestine, despite the difficult conditions they are experiencing, be it the climate or psychological conditions or the shelling threats. All these would affect any besieged group. But this group in particular represents the elite of the Palestinian people, the vanguard of the mujahidin, and the main tribes and families in Palestine, whether in Nabulus, Tulkarm, Janin, Qalqilyah, Ramallah, al-Birah, Jerusalem, Hebron, or Gaza. They represent all the tribes. We can say that a "condensed Palestine" exists in southern Lebanon now. They are men of conviction who have experienced detention centers before and are sending a message to the entire world about how Muslim mujahidin can stand fast and express their adherence to Palestine's territory. [passage omitted]

[Ni'mat] What stage has been reached in the reconciliation dialogue between Hamas and the PLO?

[Ghawshah] The first dialogue was held in Tunis with the Palestinian leadership. The second was held in Khartoum with Fatah, and it is a dialogue between factions concerning field issues and bilateral relations between Hamas and Fatah, especially with regard to the inside [the occupied territories]. With regard to the dialogue with the PLO, Hamas submitted a memorandum containing five known points. A fixed position was emphasized on the deportees issue. So it was agreed that they stay where they are until they return to their country. The issue of pulling out of the negotiations was also discussed. And we emphasized to the brothers that without a withdrawal from the negotiations Palestinian national unity would be exposed to a great threat. Probably before the deportation one would have said that 50 percent of the Palestinian people were for the negotiations and 50 percent were against. But after the deportation, we are certain that a great proportion of the Palestinian people are for suspending the negotiations. Only a minority believe that the negotiations should continue. Perhaps the position of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, sums up the Palestinian people's position at this stage.

[Ni'mat] Without doubt this position proceeds from a conviction that the negotiations are in the Israelis' favor, although there is another view which says the opposite and that the Israelis are a military force in control of the situation and that any change on the ground as a result of the negotiations cannot be in Israel's favor.

[Ghawshah] We say that the present negotiations are in the Zionist enemy's favor, because he is offering nothing guaranteed or real to give any sovereignty or territory to the Palestinian side, especially as Jerusalem is outside the negotiations and settlement is continuing. Practically and scientifically, we find that over 14 months the Zionist enemy has secured major achievements, including the release of the U.S. loan guarantees for $10 billion—which will lead to the implementation of the program concerning emigrants from the former Soviet Union. The Zionist enemy managed to win the recognition of the Arab states, including the PLO, by merely

sitting at the (negotiating) table after 43 years. This is in addition to a huge diplomatic achievement, as many states recognized Israel after the Madrid conference.

We believe that the Palestinian side has gained nothing. And the U.S. promises on the basis of which it went to (the negotiations) have, of course, ended with the departure of (James) Baker and (George) Bush. And the Palestinian people now have a difficult phase ahead of them with the arrival of Clinton—which indicates that the time has come for the Palestinian delegation to withdraw from the negotiations. Among the benefits of abandoning the negotiations are those of uniting the Palestinian people, starting to rely on the people's own power, and trying to reactivate the Arab dimension and benefit from its capabilities and from the Islamic dimension. And we believe that, if the Palestinian delegation pulls out, it will be difficult for the Arab delegations to continue. We did not say impossible; we said difficult.

We urge the Arab states to play their role and assume their responsibility. We do not claim that Hamas can liberate Palestine singlehanded. We say that we are the vanguard and the spearhead. But the Jerusalem issue and the Palestine issue are an Arab and Islamic issue, and neither the Arabs or the Muslims should be relieved of this responsibility. It is a historic issue, and we deal with it from this angle. This is why we are taking time over this issue. We are in no hurry... let this war of attrition continue for 20, 30, or 40 years so that the Zionist enemy will know that this territory is not his, that this people are prepared to sacrifice all they have, and that their Arab brothers are behind them.

[Ni'mat] We understand that the PLO rejected your call for withdrawal from the negotiations.

[Ghawshah] Brother 'Arafat told us: "I am on the brink now." All leading Palestinians understood that he meant the continuation of the negotiations. So we told him, we want you to crystallize your position as soon as possible and to unite the Palestinian people. At the meeting with the Palestinian leadership we felt that there is an axis in the PLO leadership banking on one option—the negotiations, nothing else. We noticed that this axis is committed at the Arab level and internationally and cannot free itself from this commitment at present. And of course, this axis carries no specific weight in the leadership and does not represent the Palestinians. We say that the decision is a historic and crucial decision and the Palestinian people's opinion should be sought via a direct referendum inside and outside, or by taking account of many indications which prove that the Palestinian people have lost all hopes with regard to the negotiations and that they are very close to the view of Hamas and the other Palestinian factions which rejected the Madrid conference.

[Ni'mat] What was the result of the dialogue?

[Ghawshah] There is now a better understanding, a unanimity on a Palestinian position on the deportees issue, and an agreement on escalating the intifadah and armed struggle. And the comprehensive national dialogue issue was discussed, but no decision was taken in this connection. [passage omitted]

[Ni'mat] Before the dialogue in Tunis and Khartoum some circles warned about a serious escalation between Hamas and Fatah. How serious is the situation?

[Ghawshah] The national unity issue was exposed to danger during the negotiations, since the Madrid conference right to last July. There was an inter-Palestinian conflict which reached its peak in July. Praise be to God, it was contained and an agreement was concluded to stop the fighting inside the occupied territories on 13 July. This agreement is still in force.

We believe that the Palestinian people are experiencing the best phase in terms of national unity. And it is no secret that the youths of Fatah, Hamas, and the other factions took to the streets together in the occupied territories, chanting "we are all Hamas," when (Yitzhaq) Rabin tried to separate Hamas from the other forces. He tried to drive a wedge when he said, let me deal with these fundamentalists and clear the scene for the PLO group on the basis of holding a dialogue (with Israel) and reaching an agreement. The danger is that the axis I referred to earlier and which is linked at the Arab level and internationally has managed to influence the Palestinian leadership's decision to go to the negotiations next month, leaving the deportees as they are [sentence as published]. From now we warn that national unity will be in danger and that the Palestinian people will judge severely those who go to the negotiations. We register that Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi understood the equation and conditions well and thus adopted his position. We want the Palestinian leadership to understand these conditions and not to make a fatal mistake.

[Ni'mat] Does that mean that Hamas will take up arms against the PLO?

[Ghawshah] I did not say Hamas. I said the Palestinian people, especially inside the occupied territories and outside. They will show no leniency toward those who will go to Washington while their brother deportees are exposed to snow, snakes, and the Jews' bullets and are experiencing very difficult conditions.

[Ni'mat] Will Hamas support any party's use of violence against the section supporting the negotiations?

[Ghawshah] We condemn any use of violence against any Palestinian, whether in the negotiating delegation or in any faction which believes in the negotiations. We believe that it is dialogue and popular and peaceful pressure which will determine the Palestinian people's course. [passage omitted]

[Ni'mat] How would you define the nature of the relationship between Hamas and the "Muslim Brotherhood" movement?

[Ghawshah] As is known, Hamas emerged from the Muslim Brotherhood, and its main leaders come from

the Muslim Brotherhood. And you know that the Muslim Brotherhood in the West Bank was part of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan. And in the Gaza Strip they had strong links with the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. After the occupation and Hamas' emergence there has been unification between it and the Muslim Brotherhood inside the occupied territories. And there is a relationship of mutual cooperation and support between Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and Egypt. There are also relationships with the other Islamic movements.

Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood are agreed on strategic matters, and, of course, Hamas does not interfere in Jordan's affairs. [passage omitted]

Israel Said Treated Like 'Spoiled Child' by UN

NC1401155293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Palestinian deportees spokesman 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi affirmed at a news conference today that Israel must retreat in the face of increasing pressures, particularly in the face of the Lebanese stand. He said he regrets reports that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali has given Israel another grace period in which to implement Resolution 799, maintaining that this grace period will be followed by others and subsequently our cause will die. He added: We have appealed to Dr. Butrus-Ghali not to yield to Israeli pressure, designed to dilute the issue and gain time.

Commenting on the allied strike at Iraq last night, al-Rantisi said: The strike against Iraq clearly spotlighted the UN Security Council's double standard. While Iraq is attacked for not abiding by Council resolutions, the Security Council and the United Nations treat Israel like a spoiled child.

Hamas Asked To Recognize PLO's Legitimacy

JN1301162893 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Jan 93 pp 1, 17

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], called for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to move forward toward recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories.

In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, he urged the Hamas Movement to work within the broad national and democratic pattern for rebuilding national unity and the PLO establishments on joint political, organizational, financial, and democratic grounds and on the basis of elections and distribution ratios of representatives.

The DFLP secretary general stressed that the first condition for the restoration of the unity of people and the PLO is to stop participation in the negotiations according to Madrid-Washington formula so that there will be a new basis on which dialogue is conducted with Hamas and all quarters, forces, and personalities who are not part of the PLO and its establishments.

He added that the mass expulsion carried out by the Israeli Government will bring about mounting reactions inside and outside the homeland, and will constitute a ground for escalating struggle until the cycle of Israeli repression is breached and until the enemy accepts implementation of Security Council Resolution 799 by returning the deportees and respecting the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Hawatimah said that the Palestinian opposition is likely to expand with the continued Israeli intransigence and the U.S. negative role. He explained that this expansion will block the way of the Madrid-Washington peace talks. He said the signs of this expansion of opposition have started to appear in the positions expressed by a number of negotiators who said they will not participate in the next round of talks if the deportees are not repatriated. He said that several files will be opened and time will come for the people to examine these files.

* 'Arafat Wants To Meet With Factions

93P40092A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jan 93 p 3

[Excerpt] Distinguished Palestinian sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will try to hold a meeting, which will include leaders of the Palestinian factions, during January. Foremost among these factions will be Hamas and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP].

The sources explained that this meeting comes in the context of working to unify Palestinian channels of activity under the leadership of the PLO, as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They added that Arab circles are trying to achieve reconciliation in the Palestinian nation and unify Palestinian activity. [passage omitted]

* More Fatah-Hamas Meetings 'in Two Weeks'

93P40091A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jan 93 p 4

[Excerpt] Amman—[Passage omitted] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that several meetings have been agreed to by Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. At the same time, sources from the two delegations that participated in the Khartoum meetings have indicated that these meetings will be held in Khartoum in two weeks. The meetings will be at the committee level. Among the committees are: follow-up committees, central committees for dialogue, the deportees, and coordinating action inside the occupied territories.

Also, it has been learned that Hamas is notifying the 10 factions in Damascus of the results of the meetings with

Fatah as soon as they become available. Also, it continually exchanges views with these factions before initiating any meeting or discussion with the Fatah leadership or with PLO officials. This was confirmed by Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas' official spokesman, when he described the 10-faction coalition as a political coalition. However, he leaves a wide margin for each faction to hold individual discussions, or even further, within the context of each faction's political vision, as long as there is agreement by all factions, because comprehensive national dialogue of all forces must be preceded by the PLO's withdrawal from the current negotiations.

Iran Said Planning To Proclaim New PLO Leadership

TA1301142193 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 11 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] AL-MANAR has learned that the Iranian leadership is consulting with a number of pro-Syrian and pro-Iranian Palestinian groups, as well as with some religious groups, in order to proclaim a new PLO leadership within the context of Tehran's war against the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership, led by Yasir 'Arafat.

Diplomatic circles say that a meeting attended by the leaders of these groups and Iranian officials will be held in the Iranian capital this month to finalize the arrangements for Tehran's step.

PFLP-GC Bases in Syria Said Closed Down

TA1301144593 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 11 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] It has been learned that the Syrian leadership, in agreement with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has closed down all the bases of this front on Syrian territory and has transferred some of them to Iran and some to Lebanon. Informed sources say that the Iranian Government is providing financial support to this front.

In a related development, it has been learned that the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine have been asked to transfer their bases out of Syrian territory and that they have been given a deadline to implement this Syrian demand.

Travel Tax for West Bank Residents Said Abolished

TA1301152493 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 13 Jan 93 p 1

[Text] Nabulus—Informed sources in the Post Office have said that effective at 0900 today, the travel tax for West Bank residents wishing to leave to Arab countries via the Allenby Bridge or the Sinai crossing point to Egypt will be abolished. A one-time exit permit fee will now amount to 114 instead of 364 shekels after the abolition of the 250 shekels in travel tax.

Algeria

Western 'Aggression' Against Iraq Reported

LD1301234893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The Western coalition forces yesterday evening committed an aggression described as limited against vital targets in Iraq. U.S., French, and British military aircraft took part in the aggression which struck at ground-to-air missile launchers, airfields, and radar sites in the south of the country. The White House spokesman did not exclude the possibility, at any moment, of striking at Iraq again if it does not end its rejection of international resolutions and the conditions of the cease-fire in the Gulf.

Iraqi television confirmed the news of the attack and announced that President Saddam Husayn will deliver a speech which was described as historic.

French Minister Affirms Wish To Improve Relations

LD1401120193 Algiers APS in English 1123 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] London, Jan 14 (APS)—"France wants to relaunch its relations with Algeria in all fields mainly economy and finance", the French minister of finance, Michel Sapin, told an interview to the daily "EL-HAYAT" here. Concerning the visit he will pay to Algeria, Sapin said "We want to continue relations on better bases and debate all questions in a constructive manner".

Affirming the will of France to support Algeria's efforts in the field of finance, he pointed out that France is ready to facilitate the ongoing talks between Algeria and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the basis of a more realistic vision. Answering a question on the re-profiling of the Algerian debt, Sapin said "We hope that progress [will] be made concerning this delicate question and that it [will] be examined under all its aspects so as to enable Algeria face up its difficulties and prepare a better future".

Oil Exploration Contracts Signed With Germany

LD1301094193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text) SONATRACH [National Society for Hydrocarbons Research, Production, Transportation, Transformation and Commercialization], and a German consortium consisting of four German oil companies yesterday signed three oil exploration contracts.

The first is a five-year contract covering the area of Hamadet El-Guelta, east of Hassi Messaoud, where exploration will be carried out in two stages, with the German consortium providing full finance for the exploration work.

The second contract covers geophysical and geological studies for 18 months.

The third contract is an agreement according to which, for the first time, a feasibility study will be carried out on a chemical treatment project.

The total cost of exploration work, 30 percent of which will be guaranteed by SONATRACH, is estimated to be $32.4 million.

Government Lifts Suspension of 2 Newspapers

LD1401054193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] In a statement we received today, the Ministry of Culture and Communications announced that today it lifted the suspension of the two dailies EL WATAN and EL DJAZAIR EL YOUM.

Moreover, the Ministry of Culture and Communications today summoned the AFP correspondent and asked him to explain the news report included in a dispatch he sent today. The dispatch included a report of an attack on a workshop used for ship repairs. According to the same dispatch released by AFP, a first lieutenant took part in this incident, which occurred last night and which resulted in the death of ten people during the clash that ensued.

The AFP correspondent was summoned by the Ministry of Culture and Communications today and was questioned about this fallacious report that contravenes the ethics of the profession.

Communique Issued on HCE Program for 1993

LD1301121693 Algiers APS in English 1130 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Algiers, Jan 13 (APS)—The main axes of the 1993 program the Higher State Committee (HCE) will disclose Thursday, on the occasion of its first anniversary, remain, one day before their announcement, surrounded with a total discretion.

The latest communique of the HCE related to its program was limited in giving the general principles but foreshadows a hierarchization of priorities. Three main chapters: Consolidation of security, instauration of a democratic system and economic relaunch constitute the essential elements of the strategy the HCE intends to develop during the period of transition. The decisions which will be announced, would bring elements of answer to the concerns linked to the management of this period which "will lead to the end of the crisis and the definite stabilization of the situation". In other words, to define rules which will organize in "a clear and resolute way political life".

Even if no indication has been given on the management of this period, the political landmarks which have up till now characterized the action of the HCE and the political and judicial instruments it has provided itself with,

foreshadow the terms of the debate. The latter would be centered around conditions to be met in order that the transition towards a true democratic system be done in the stability of institutions and that the renewal of the political staff thoughout elections which constitute the only real time of the expression of popular will. In the absence of such markings, the structures of the state, the political milieux noted, would suffer disfunctioning and discontinuity in the exercise of power in every expression of the popular will.

It is in this spirit, it was also noted that the HCE is making of the "guarantee of the perenity of the republican state" one of the priority axes of its program. This action implies a reinforcement of the state authority, a task the HCE is working for during a whole year, a clarification of the mode of management of the transitional period, and mainly the definition of objectives in time.

Once decorticated, this action tends at precizing the project of society to be realized, which itself depends on conditions to be met for the setting up of a democratic process and a return to the electoral process. This "colossal" task is "neither the one of a [word indistinct] nor that of an institution nor that of a group of individuals", the president of the HCE declared before the higher officers of the National Popular Army. To reach in the best delays this approach, analysts consider that there is a need for a "national consensus granting to the country the necessary respite". This supposes an abandonment of the political calculations linked to conjuncture and persons. The immediate objectives have their importance and could not have the pre-eminance over those which are decisive for the future of Algeria", said the head of government before the National Consultative Council. It is necessary to have the time which is needed for the implementation of the economic program of the government, said further Abdessalam for whom "the effort can not be deployed on a period less than three years".

It is around these objectives that have been organized consultations initiated by the HCE with five political parties: The FLN [National Liberation Front], FFS [Socialist Forces Front], RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy], Hamas [Islamic Society Movement], Enahda as well as with social organizations and personalities of the political and cultural world.

The majority of parties invited to these consultations did not react to the delay asked by the head of government but gave proposals which, even if they are divergent, agree on the necessity to manage with mechanisms which remain to be determined, the period of transition with the exclusion from dialogue of all those who try to impose themselves politically by arms. A net evolution was noted in the position of some parties, which, only a short time ago asked merely for a return to the electoral process. These consultations, informed sources indicated will be continued and deepened around practical modallies [word as received] about the management of the transitional phases and for a consensus over a national project. This action of the HCE, the analysts further noted, has the double merit of making credible its action of rehabilitation of the state on the one hand and reassuring about its intention to gather the best conditions for a sound transition to entrust the new generation with the management of the country' affairs.

Egypt

Mubarak Expresses 'Deep Regret' Over Attack on Iraq

NC1301194993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1937 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus, 13 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak expressed his deep regret over the escalation of the situation to the point of the use of force after he received news that Iraqi military targets have been hit. In a statement to the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers accompanying his excellency, he stressed the importance of safeguarding the Iraqi people's security, territorial integrity, and lives.

President Mubarak called on the Iraqi regime to stop its adventurous policy that harms the Iraqi people and their rights and future. He said he hopes that the use of force will stop as quickly as possible to safeguard the Iraqi people, who have suffered a great deal from the woos of war and devastation.

President Mubarak said that Saddam Husayn's incursion into Kuwaiti territory—which is in fact currently under UN supervision, not under Iraqi or Kuwaiti control—is an irresponsible act. He said that those around Saddam Husayn are not giving him sincere advice or a true picture of the situation. They are part of Saddam's regime and tell him what he wants to hear. No one objects to what Saddam says or gives him sincere advice. No one gives him a true assessment of the situation or the dangers he is facing.

President Mubarak stressed that he, like every other Arab, did not want to see force used against an Arab country. He noted that partitioning Iraq into three states is not in the interest of the Arabs, but Saddam Husayn, regrettably, involved himself and his country in this miscalculated risk.

Discussing the issue of the Palestinian deportees, President Mubarak said that he sent a message to Yitzhaq Rabin calling on him to find a solution to this problem. He noted that he did not impose a certain solution on him but asked that he follow a course that suits the continuation of the peace process and the need to maintain it.

In response to a question on the Sudanese Government's position, President Mubarak stressed that he will not react emotionally to the Sudanese Government's conflicting acts. He noted that he will not take violent

measures against the Sudanese Government, stressing that the situation in Egyptian Hala'ib is quite stable.

President Mubarak said that Hasan al-Turabi dreams about becoming an international leader. He said that it is regrettable that they say one thing and do the opposite. He noted that at a time when they request President al-Asad, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to embark on mediation efforts with Egypt and show good intentions, they abolish Egyptian schools in Sudan and lodge complaints with the Security Council.

Speaking about democracy and the experiment of parties in Egypt, President Mubarak said he welcomes constructive criticism. He noted that the ordinary man eventually gets fed up with parties that exaggerate things and ignore facts. He noted that the Wafd Party and the National Progressive Unionist Party adopt honorable patriotic stands, adding he does not want anyone to be biased toward the government or to support it. He said that the parties should adopt patriotic stands because this is our country and these are our rights. We do not want to be unfair to anyone. Since we have a right to Hala'ib, how can certain people demand that we give up this right.

Editorials Highly Critical of Saddam, Iraqi Actions

NC1401094693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0803 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says the recent practices of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn prove he is suffering from self-destructiveness, gambling on his own life and that of countless numbers of innocent Iraqis.

In a commentary today, the paper says the Iraqi ruler was not deterred by the horrible defeat, which was paid for by the souls and resources of the Iraqi people. His sick mind could not learn the lesson, and he imagined he could still defy the international community and once again violate international laws. He believed that since he escaped the first time, he would remain on his seat irrespective of the results of his new reckless adventures.

AL-AKHBAR says the leaders of the international alliance could have insisted on his trial as a war criminal responsible for the killing of thousands of people during the occupation of Kuwait, but they were content with the harsh lesson they taught him during the Gulf war.

The paper concludes by saying that if the January 1991 lesson failed to cure Baghdad's butcher of his malicious disease, perhaps the January 1993 lesson will help him get rid of his destructive illusions or save Iraq and the entire world from them and from Saddam altogether.

AL-AHRAM says one of the objectives of the battles Saddam's regime is inventing with the United Nations and the West is to overshadow the Palestinian deportees question and renew the rifts among the Arab countries at a time when they need to mobilize their efforts to solve the problems of occupation on the one hand, and to deal jointly with all international issues that concern them on the other.

The paper says in its editorial today that Saddam's return to his former role by engaging in adventures as much as his dwindling capabilities allow him represents a painstaking effort to dismantle new Arab bonds so that the Arabs will return to their divisions and cease their cooperation to confront all issues concerning them. In this respect, the paper notes the positive rapprochement among Arabs, especially the coordination among Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine against the Israeli occupation, the security cooperation between Egypt and the countries of North Africa, the revival of Arabian Gulf conciliations, and other goodwill offices that significantly helped Arab cohesion.

Commentary Questions Timing of Saddam's 'Reckless Acts'

NC1301161993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Timing of the Iraqi Ruler's Acts Reveals His Betrayal of His People and Arab Nation"]

[Excerpts] We, and the entire Arab nation, are following with surprise and denunciation the strange timing of Baghdad's irresponsible acts against the Arab and Islamic nation's interests. The Arab foreign ministers have been holding an emergency meeting at the Arab League to discuss the new Israeli challenge represented by the deported Palestinians and Israel's refusal to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799. In addition, the hardships to which the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina are being subjected are such that they have affected the consciences of the European nations, as illustrated by the protest demonstrations in several European capitals denouncing Serbian massacres of unarmed Muslims.

While the Arabs were rejecting what was happening to the deported Palestinians and international and Arab circles were denouncing what was being done to the Bosnian Muslims, Saddam Husayn provoked a new crisis by moving his missiles to forbidden zones and assuming a posture of defiance to international legitimacy's major parties, chiefly the United States. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime is continuing its miscalculations, as when it moved its missiles into the forbidden zone in retaliation for the downing by U.S. fighter planes of an Iraqi aircraft overflying the air exclusion zone. Some of his officers and soldiers, in civilian clothes, seized military equipment inside Kuwait. This means that the Iraqi regime insists on pursuing its hostile policy against its Arab nation and that, indeed, this policy has become its basic, unchangeable method.

International and Arab forces understand these facts and deal with the Iraqi regime accordingly. However, when we examine the timing of these volatile Iraqi acts, carried out on the instructions of the regime's leader, we find that it adds a new dimension to the issue and shows the calculated role that the Iraqi president plays at various stages of history of the Arab, Islamic cause. While the Arab foreign ministers were meeting, as we have already noted, to resolve the crisis of the deported Palestinians and while angry demonstrators were condemning Serbian terrorism against the Bosnian Muslims, Saddam Husayn provoked a crisis with the United Nations and Kuwait. The Western media, frequently on purpose and sometimes unintentionally, did not highlight the Arabs' primary cause and their long struggle with Israel to achieve a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East crisis and to establish a lasting and stable peace that will provide all the region's nations with equal rights. Hence, President Saddam Husayn's role at this time raises many questions and arouses suspicion that there is some link between the Iraqi regime's reckless acts—eventually amounting to nothing—and Israel's insistence to refuse to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799.

These suspicions will not take long to answer because the Iraqi opposition and resistance factions in the north and south are becoming more and more active and will eventually take the Iraqi tyrant to task. He must be tried by a popular tribunal on the charge of high treason and other crimes that will come to light.

Mubarak, Delegation Return To Cairo From Damascus

NC1301200393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1946 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo this evening from Damascus following a visit of several hours to Syria.

During the visit, President Mubarak held talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on a number of Arab and international issues of mutual interest.

Egypt, Syria Reiterate Rejection of Chemical Weapons Treaty

NC1301160993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus, 13 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Syria have reiterated that they will not sign the agreement on chemical weapons until Middle East arms control becomes balanced without exception, particularly in view of Israel's nuclear armament. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif made this statement and added that the joint Egyptian-Syrian meeting held in Damascus today dealt with the question of establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Libya

Aircraft Spare Part Procurement Problems Outlined

LD1301143893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0955 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Jan (JANA)—The Public Civil Aviation and Meteorological Corporation in the Jamahiriyah has published details of some correspondence and telephone communications related to procurement of spare parts required for the safe operation of the aviation sector of the Great Jamahiriyah, and the difficulties faced in their importation as a result of the coercive measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah.

The correspondence shows that several contracts had been signed to procure radar station spare parts, but that these have not as yet been shipped, and remain waiting at European airports. These include a contract with Thompson CSN, signed in January 1992, which has not been fulfilled to date due to an embargo imposed by the European country [France] where the parts are manufactured.

The correspondence also shows that on 7 October 1992 the Public Civil Aviation Corporation informed the General People's Committee for Transport of its inability to obtain spare parts, which could lead to a breakdown in services essential for maintaining safety in the air and avoiding an aviation disaster.

The Corporation had also addressed other concerned departments on 5 November 1992 that it was no longer able to carry out technical services due to lack of radar spare parts.

Furthermore, numerous letters and communications by the Libyan Arab Airlines [LAA] contained complaints about the inability to obtain essential spare parts for its airplanes . These referred to the contract signed with Air France for maintenance of LAA Boeing 707 and 727 aircraft, which had been suspended, leading to a fall in technical efficiency and performance of these aircraft due to an interruption in the flow of spare parts.

LAA also made clear that it was no longer able to obtain technical reference manuals for the operation and certification of these aircraft, or technical publications on air safety and aviation requirements.

Morocco

King Hassan on Relations With Arab East, EC

PM1401124093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jan 93 pp7-9

[Interview with King Hassan II of Morocco by 'Uthman al-'Umayr in Fes; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-'Umayr] You have visited the Arab east after 30 years of absence. How did you find it at the personal and political levels?

[Hassan] Thank God, I found friends, leaders and people, who have not changed. As a matter of fact, the passage of time has made them even more loving and cordial. In the countries I visited—the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates [UAE], Jordan, Syria, and Egypt—I found alert enlightened people. I found a wealth of books in the bookshops, a wealth that manifests itself in the radio and television broadcasts of all these states, opening new horizons indicating that there has been a new popular qualitative and quantitative leap in these countries. At a closer range with His Majesty King Fahd, His Highness Shaykh Zayid, His Majesty King Husayn, President Hafiz al-Asad, and President Husni Mubarak, who are all my friends, there was no need to beat about the bush. We spoke frankly, proceeding from our friendship and mutual respect. All of them, by God all of them, have the sole preoccupation of uniting Arab stands and Arab ranks. How? Everyone, of course, sees it in his own way but they all feel that the time has come for the restoration of Arab unity of positions and ranks because the inter-Arab atmosphere and the Arab-world atmosphere are not sound and should be remedied as soon as possible.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, why did you only visit these five states?

[Hassan] Because I personally believe—first of all because Jordan, Syria, and Egypt are what you now in the east fashionably call the cordon states. Call them frontline states. I prefer frontline states. It was necessary for me to visit and see them. Of course, I could not have gone to the region without visiting my old dear brother His Majesty King Fahd, performing a minor pilgrimage, visiting the grave of the prophet, may God's prayers and blessings be with him, or without returning a fraction of the visits Shaykh Zayid has paid to us and his second country [Morocco]. He visits us twice a year. That is why I chose these countries to the exclusion of others, although I treat and respect all the Arab states equally.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, did you, on that tour, discuss the question of convening an Arab summit conference or any way of ending this current Arab state of affairs?

[Hassan] We discussed the question of holding an Arab summit conference. I did not hear a "no" uttered in principle. The important point and question was, when? Do not forget that at that time, that is in October and November, the election campaign was at its peak in the United States and we had to wait for the outcome. That was the main condition. I do not deny that there were other problems but I see them as secondary problems, problems of sensitivity, man-to-man problems. One should take these problems into consideration, but they are not insurmountable nor fateful problems. They can be overcome and transcended. The main condition was to await the U.S. election results.

[Al-'Umayr] On the question of the Arab-Israeli conflict, what is the role that, unknown to us, Morocco is playing backstage and in connection with the negotiations?

[Hassan] There is no real role in the sense of distribution of roles. We can say that there are initiatives. For instance, on the recent case of Rabin's deportation of 415 Palestinians, I sent him a message through a private channel. I said to him, how could that be? The Jews of Europe blame Hitler and they are still wailing and complaining that they were displaced and tortured and thrown out of their homes, and then you go and make the same mistake and then say that you are ready to negotiate even with the PLO. I see this position of mine as one of support for them [the deportees] and not a special role in a designation of roles. It is a gesture of wisdom and advice. When the opportunity arises for talks with the Palestinian brothers and when they ask my opinion, I will tell them what I think. They know that I am honest and sound because I covet no land and have no ambitions in that region. Morocco's role is an advisory one to this or that party, one of frankly and straightforwardly telling one side or another what Morocco believes is in the interest of peace. Why? I have frequently said it to the Palestinian brothers and I have said it to the Israelis. I said to them, notice that whenever an enemy of the Arabs wants to attack the Arabs, he tries to inflame the Arab-Israeli issue so that our eyes focus on that region, on that geographically small area with all our senses charged and enthused for that small area on the Arab map, leaving the way clear for whoever wants to dig tunnels under Arab feet, especially in the Arab east. I told them, that is wrong and you should think about it. That is a distraction because Arab-Israeli peace is inevitable because there can never be stability in this region through war, and this should not be taken too far by Israel or the Arabs because that would be suicidal. It would not be in line with the century we are seeing off and the century we are ushering in. Peace is imperative and necessary, and it must be a positive peace. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, do you intend to hold more contacts with the Israelis or play host to Rabin once more?

[Hassan] I did not play host to Rabin the first time. He had asked to visit me. If a new element emerges and if both sides reach agreement on that in the interest of both, then I would have no objection.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you expect the deportees issue to have an effect on the cause of peace?

[Hassan] I do not believe that it will have a direct effect, but it will undoubtedly affect the standing of the Israeli prime minister, who has fallen into a trap. He has fallen significantly and in a big way into the trap laid for him. I hope to God that he knows how to get out of this predicament because if there is going to be a peace process it must be with the Labor Party, not others.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you believe that the PLO has also fallen into a trap because of its internal position and its dispute

with [Islamic Resistance Movement] Hamas? Is there any similarity between the positions of Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat?

[Hassan] I do not think there is a similarity. The problem between the PLO and Hamas is not a fundamental problem. It is a problem of approach. Hamas believes that peace comes through war whereas the PLO believes that peace comes through negotiations. A meeting was recently held between Hamas and the PLO. Of course, the PLO is trying to absorb all the other organizations because it is the framework for all. Anyway, the fate of the Palestinians is in the hands of the PLO because the Arab states and the whole world recognize it as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians. Of course, the views of one party or another about the PLO could be taken into consideration but the PLO, which is recognized by the Arab and Islamic world and all the world at large, has the final say. I do not think that the PLO has fallen into a trap. It is now engaged in a dialogue with Hamas. Although the dialogue has been heated, difficult, and long, the PLO has remained committed to participation in the negotiations and it does not wish to take the path of war on its own to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, as we have broached the Hamas issue, let us discusss fundamentalism in the Arab world. How do you view it and its dangers?

[Hassan] Fundamentalism has existed in the Arab world since the onset of Islam. We should know this. There have always been deviations in all religions. Islam has known such deviation and religious extremism. What gave this religious extremism its alarming and exaggerated dimension is the fact that on many occasions and in many places the religious deviation was mixed with a political approach. That did not happen in the past. In the past religious deviation was confined to religious matters, and religious intransigence was not meant to influence the political situation or politicize the daily life of the Muslims. [passage omitted] If there is to be deviation, it should be confined to religious affairs. The confusion occurs when religion is used as a tool and a vehicle to power. That is when the confusion occurs and that is what gives religious deviation that alarming and exaggerated dimension, and that, quite frankly, is neither in the interest of Islam nor of the Muslims. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, let us dwell more on fundamentalism, because it is an issue with which people are preoccupied, and everyone wishes to know Your Majesty's analysis. Do you believe that there is a possibility of cooperation between the Arab regimes and fundamentalism?

[Hassan] Last year Iran participated in the Jerusalem Committee meeting. It sent Hoseyni, an important figure at the foreign ministry. I met him. His Arabic is excellent and he is a good and flexible man. We opened the file, and I said to him: Tell President Rafsanjani that for 14 centuries the Muslims have coexisted and lived together in peace, each in his own way, so why should we not initiate a dialogue between the Sunnis and the Shiites beginning by concentrating on what unites us and then, after that, we can discuss our differences. Some of these differences are minor and we do not take them into consideration, but some are fundamental and I am certain that we would be able to find solutions for them. Our ulema and our intellectuals would find the solutions.

His reaction was magnificent...The Iranian envoy left happy and pleased. He later sent me a reply informing me that President Rafsanjani accepted the initiative and was waiting for us to send an envoy to Iran. No date has yet be set for the visit. Perhaps it will take place after the events which have put a freeze on matters pass, but I have not forgotten this matter. It is fixed in my mind and there must be a dialogue. It cannot be that some Muslims think only about jihad for God while we, the Sunnis, are portrayed as opposed to fighting and to jihad. If the real jihad for God comes then we would all stand like one man. So there should be a dialogue.

[Al-'Umayr] What do you think of the Western view of fundamentalism and its concentration on the negative aspects of that issue?

[Hassan] If we were living in the 18th century the West would not have judged us so harshly on the question of the fundamentalists. Why? Because of the secular system and the separation of religious affairs from temporal affairs in those days. The religious courts prevailed then and the Vatican law governed people's affairs. They had fundamentalists, more extremist than Muslim fundamentalists. Then came secularism and it became possible for people to be citizens without religion and without following religious laws. To them we became strange animals because we Muslims lived in religion and could not live out of religion. It is a situation they had one and a half centuries ago, and they had fundamentalism. They would not have criticized us then. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] So do you believe that the fear that some Westerners, especially in Europe, have of the Islamic human tide is justified?

[Hassan] In some cases, yes, because they themselves did not know how to organize the Muslim societies on their territories. They left them unchecked and without care, and viewed them as oppressive invaders. Had they known how to organize the Islamic societies in their countries, they would have spared them numerous moral dangers. A true Muslim youth does not drunkenly stab his brothers or friends with a knife or shoot them. A well-mannered cultured Muslim could have become a contributory educational factor in the European or Western societies, had these societies known how to care for him and shield him against the troublemakers. Regrettably, they [the Muslims] have been neglected. We Moroccans, for instance, have many Muslims in France. The French Government authorities did not give us a chance to organize these Muslims and said that they would apply Napoleonic law to them. That law states

that a French Muslim or a French person who has converted to Islam must lead them and be their imam, but how could a man who has been a Muslim for one or two years, who does not speak Arabic, who does not know the rules of ablution, and who would not know if prayers are performed correctly, how could such a man act as the imam of a group? [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] But do you also encourage the same Moroccans—as we are talking about the relationship with Morocco and Europe—to enter the parliamentary and political cycle in Europe without having independent status?

[Hassan] We have agreements with several European states which say that Moroccan workers can enter any European states, provided they enter within the framework of employment contracts between the state and the workers or between the state and the employers. But it is very harmful for them to enter without employment contracts and be a burden to society there. First, because they harm the countries they live in. Second, they harm the reputation of the country to which they belong. So we are against the Moroccans' covert entry into any European country. We demand the rights of our subjects in France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, and the other states, but within the framework of the law and legal dealings between employer and worker. As for those who decide to go to Europe without work, if they are exposed to danger, they are responsible for this danger.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, we can ask about this subject later. We want to return to fundamentalism and ask: Does Morocco fear the establishment of a strange state, like what you termed strange extremism?

[Hassan] Do you mean Algeria, for example?

[Al-'Umayr] Yes.

[Hassan] I expressed my opinion of this issue after the first round of the Algerian elections. I said—as a politician, not as Morocco's king—that I had wanted the election experiment to continue in order to see how these fundamentalists would extricate themselves from their contradictions, especially as most of their leadership received their education in the West. For example, 'Abbassi Madani studied in Britain, and Abdelkader Hachani is a polytechnic graduate. This is why I wondered: Will the intellectuals dominate the riffraff, or will the riffraff dominate the intellectuals and enlightened? In fact it would have been an important experiment for us and even for Egypt and Tunisia. Algeria would have become a laboratory for us to see how religious extremists would extricate themselves from their contradictions when they have modern education and when they take responsibility for the state on a daily basis, whether at the highest level or locally. My view—as a politician, not as Morocco's king—was that the experiment should be completed. And I personally think that Algerian extremism, the Algerian religious deviation, Sudanese religious deviation, and Iranian religious deviation each have their own character, attributable to their education, living standard, and their own problems. And I believe there is no one standard category for religious deviation, as it differs according to the country.

[Al-'Umayr] Speaking of Algeria, how are Moroccan-Algerian relations proceeding, and is there a move toward holding a summit?

[Hassan] The relations are routine and ordinary and contain nothing which attracts attention.

[Al-'Umayr] How would you assess the Algerian position on the Sahara problem?

[Hassan] What we want is not the position of any one party. What is important is what the secretary general, to whom the Security Council has given the white paper, will decide. We are waiting for the secretary general to organize a referendum in the Moroccan Sahara as soon as possible. There is no other way except the organization of a referendum.

[Al-'Umayr] Are you confident that the referendum will be organized in a manner acceptable to Morocco?

[Hassan] I am confident. Why? Because if this problem is not resolved at the international level, and if we say let us resolve it at bilateral level and among friends, one day one friend will turn against another. That is life. But if there are fixed, legally drawn lines endorsed by the final stamp of international legitimacy, no one will argue with anyone, and every one of us will be safe and secure within his borders, whatever his borders are.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, with regard to the Maghreb Union, which we see faltering to some extent, has the Lockerbie case affected the union?

[Hassan] It has affected it a lot. First, we can say that the Arab Maghreb Union is proceeding slowly at present, and I do not want to use the word falter. It really is painful, because all the structures are there: The cultural, economic, social, political, and banking structures are there. What remains is implementation. Everyone is implementing them according to his tools; I am not saying his abilities, but his own tools. Without doubt the Lockerbie case has considerably and adversely affected the course of the Arab Maghreb as a whole. It has even affected the Arab Maghreb states at the bilateral level.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Excellency, I and millions of viewers watched you on television as you received a French parliamentary delegation from the Gaullist Rally for the Republic. What does this reception mean vis-a-vis Moroccan-French relations?

[Hassan] As far as we are concerned, it has no political meaning. That parliamentary team belongs to the old Gaullist party and belongs to De Gaulle's thinking and philosophy. It came to visit Morocco, so we accorded it the required welcome. First, because we have heard nothing from it about Morocco except praise and the eagerness to maintain cordial relations between France and Morocco. So it was our duty [to welcome them], not

as opposition, a majority or a minority, but as political friends who came to visit us. We are bound by what bound my father Mohamed V, may God have mercy on him, and General de Gaulle, which has influenced—and is bound to influence—our relations with this party and movement, from which, as I said, I saw and heard nothing but good. And we do not want anyone to understand this as interference on our part in France's internal sovereignty, especially as they are approaching parliamentary elections.

[Al-'Umayr] And they might come to power.

[Hassan] It is possible.

[Al-'Umayr] With regard to the European union, how will it affect Morocco in particular?

[Hassan] I am very optimistic with regard to cooperation between Europe and Morocco for a number of reasons. First, we have completed the first steps and the EC and Morocco are now looking for a special contract for dealings between the EC and Morocco. Second, Europe should look both vertically and horizontally. If it looks horizontally, it will see nothing but Eastern Europe, which will create 50,000 problems for it. These problems will result in political problems, as is the case in Yugoslavia at present, in addition to [problems] in northern Europe in the Baltic. Strategically, it is in Europe's interests, especially the European states which have a foothold in the Mediterranian, to look at its future with the other states vertically. This vertical view has caused it to look toward the greater Arab Maghreb. But because of the conditions in some states, we have not been able to establish cooperation between the "five plus five" group (southern Mediterranean states and the Arab Maghreb states). Western Europe is in dialogue with us at present. We have made very important strides in this dialogue in order to put our relationship, Morocco's relationship with the EC, into a legal framework that guarantees for Morocco its trade and economic interests, and technology as well. In this connection, I am very optimistic.

[Al-'Umayr] But some people expect the European union treaty to lead to Europe's abandonment of its commitments toward the Third World. Do you agree with this view?

[Hassan] If Europe abandons its agreements with Third World states, it will be on a selective basis, not collectively. Praise be to God, Morocco is not among the states to be abandoned. Modestly, by virtue of its geographical position, Morocco cannot be abandoned, because it is Morocco.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, do you believe in the European commitments with regard to the northern region, for example, and with regard to combating drugs?

[Hassan] The poor farmer who grows these plants does not make much profit. He makes little profit; perhaps the price of barley or wheat. That is why we told the Europeans, this is the problem, and since his feet are in Morocco and his mouth in Europe, let us cooperate in order to transform farming and life for those living in Morocco's northern mountains. They agreed with us to draw up a plan and to contribute a sum of money with us to finance the means of living in Morocco's northern mountains.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Majesty, when will this program for developing the northern areas be implemented?

[Hassan] They will reply to us officially on 12 January. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] I would like to ask you about your opinion of the new U.S. Administration and your expectations.

[Hassan] I do not know U.S. President Clinton or any of his team. But I know President Carter well. Although he is not in Clinton's team, he will be an adviser to them. I have no personal relationships with the new administration, but I am certain we will establish cordial relations as soon as possible.

[Al-'Umayr] The local elections were held recently, and the legislative elections will be held on 30 April. We would like to hear from His Majesty his assessment of the local elections and his visualization of the upcoming legislative elections?

[Hassan] First, what delights me and makes me happy is that the contestations submitted after the local elections—2,400 contestations have been submitted to courts—include fewer than 10 against the authorities, which is important. It is important to know that only 10 out of 2,400 contestations are against the authorities—which include excellent leaders and workers, in fact over 350 or 400 people from the higher frameworks—in terms of the administrative organs' intervention. This is according to the report of the Justice Ministry, which must refer the contestations to me. I am proud because the authorities' intervention was very meager and fewer than 10 contestations out of 2,400 are against them. It is very honorable. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Umayr] The new Constitution stipulates that parliament should vote on the prime minister's program. So what are the characteristics of the next prime minister who will be appointed in accordance with the new Constitution?

[Hassan] The characteristics do not change.

[Al-'Umayr] From outside or from inside parliament?

[Hassan] By God, I do not know. I cannot make a decision before I know the parliament's political map after the elections are held: Which parties can form a majority? Will it be one party or a party coalition? The selection of the prime minister will be considered in the light of the distribution of seats inside parliament then. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Country Reacts to U.S., Allies' Air Raid on Iraq

Air Strikes Reported

LD1301230593 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpt] We have just received the following report. U.S. and alliance warplanes launched air raids on Iraq this evening in response to the Iraqi regime's persistent violations of the cease-fire conditions of the war for the liberation of Kuwait. NCBS TV network cited officials of the U.S. Defense Department as saying that U.S. fighter planes took off from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk and from bases in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The TV network reported that the attack had been planned for the day before yesterday [11 January] but was postponed because of adverse weather conditions. News agencies reported that French Mirage 2000 and British Tornado aircraft took part in the attack. [passage omitted]

UN Spokesman Says Border 'Calm'

NC1401100093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0936 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Jan (MENA)—Iraqi forces today have not violated the demilitarized zone on the border with Kuwait.

'Abd-al-Latif Qabbaj, official spokesman for UNIKOM [UN Iraq- Kuwait Observer Mission], told a MENA correspondent in Kuwait that the situation in the border region is calm today, with the UN observers registering no unusual movements.

Qabbaj refused to say whether he expects any Iraqi border violations in the next two days, as has occurred during the past four days. He pointed out that the demilitarized zone still contains some non-military equipment belonging to Iraq.

Newspapers Comment on Strike

LD1401074693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0644 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Jan (KUNA)—A number of Kuwaiti papers stressed in their editorials today that the air strike was disproportionate to what Iraq had done throughout the period of its invasion of Kuwait and until now, making clear that the presidential transition period in the United States does not affect the dealing of military strikes to teach Iraq a lesson whenever the need arises.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AAM said in its editorial entitled "An aspirin for a cancerous disease" that the limited strike dealt yesterday to the Iraqi regime is disproportionate, like prescribing aspirin for a cancer that can only be uprooted through surgery.

AL-ANBA expressed in its editorial entitled "Wait, watch, and learn" the hope that the new military operation will bear fruit and eliminate the cancerous tumor so Saddam will not appear the hero in the eyes of his sick aides. It went on to add that "Saddam is trying to play in the last quarter of an hour of the presence of President Bush in the White House, pretending to be blind to the fact that the United States is a state of institutions governed by concepts and principles that are not affected by the coming or departure of a president." It made clear that "the biggest proof of this truth is that the Clinton administration is standing behind President Bush to teach Saddam the lesson he deserves."

As for AL-SIYASAH, it said it is naive for Saddam to imagine that the U.S. Administration would be busy arranging the transfer of power from President Bush to Clinton and that there would be no time to carry out any military operations. It went on to add that Saddam's latest childish practices are in fact suicidal practices based on recklessness and folly, whose price he will certainly pay. The paper pointed out that the international community is no longer responsible for the consequences of what will happen in Baghdad, because the latest scenario predicted that something will be born out of this atmosphere charged with anxiety and tension, confirming that Baghdad brought misfortune upon itself.

Foreign Ministry Official Comments on Iraq

LD1301135293 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Interview with Foreign Ministry official Sulayman Majid al- Shahin by correspondent Muhammad al-Qahtani; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Qahtani] Good evening, Mr. Sulayman Majid al- Shahin.

[Al-Shahin] Good evening.

[Al-Qahtani] Is it possible to classify the Iraqi violations into small or big violations? Or, should not international sovereignty be respected?

[Al-Shahin] In the name of God, the most gracious and most merciful. I do not think that there is an agreed possible classification based on the size of the violations. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qahtani] According to the agreement in November, the Iraqi regime was given until the 15th of the current month to remove all that it had left behind. Is there a condition to obtain permission from the Kuwaiti Government, and from the border observation forces?

[Al-Shahin] No doubt there is an agreement allowing the Iraqi side to take some of its equipment along the border, or within the border strip the United Nations controls, but the depth of entry should not exceed 2-300 meters. But obtaining the equipment was made conditional, whereby the Iraqi side must submit, through the UN, the

number, names, and responsibilities of its people, and then, through the United Nations, Kuwait is consulted, in the light of which Kuwait agrees or disagrees. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qahtani] But the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission [UNIKOM] sources, according to agency reports, say that it is not clear whether this incursion constitutes a violation of the cease-fire agreements. How can this be explained?

[Al-Shahin] What interests us most are the reports forwarded by General De Guama, commander of the international observation forces, made through daily meetings with him. These daily reports have been forwarded since 2 January to his headquarters in the United States. All of them unanimously agree that the Iraqi acts are flagrant and dangerous violations. [passage omitted]

[Al-Qahtani] My last question. Do you think that these violations will continue, and is there anything left the Iraqi regime can seize?

[Al-Shahin] The Iraqi regime maintains that it is permitted to cross the borders to return some of its equipment to Iraq within the given time limit, which is 15 January. Let us wait until 15 January, but I believe this is not the primary test, because as long as this regime remains in existence, this regime which does not respect its people, this regime which disregards international will, always makes us suspicious of its intentions. [passage omitted]

Minister Welcomes Clinton Stand on Security

LD1401111693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1019 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Jan (KUNA)—Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah today said U.S. troops will be arriving in Kuwait within the next 18 hours, and affirmed that their mission is only defensive. At a news conference held here today on the recent events in the region, Shaykh Sa'ud added that the United States is committed to the security of Kuwait, and that the limited air strike against Iraqi targets undertaken with the participation of British and French aircraft was a response to the Iraqi regime's failure to comply with UN Security Council Resolutions 687 and 688.

Shaykh Sa'ud said the Kuwaiti Government has been monitoring events since the Iraqi regime's violation of the common border, and there were contacts with the U.S. Administration concerning these violations in order to take the appropriate measures.

With regard to the defensive measures taken by Kuwait, Shaykh Sa'ud affirmed that all the preventive measures taken were to face up to any eventuality, and that contacts are underway with the U.S. Government on this subject. Shaykh Sa'ud afffirmed that there is worldwide support for the air strike by the alliance states because the strike came within legal international resolutions. [He added] that it could be the beginning of a series of strikes without warning in order to force the Iraqi regime to comply with all the UN resolutions and particularly the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages in Iraqi jails, which is the first condition of the cease-fire in the war for Kuwait liberation.

Regarding the stand of President-elect Bill Clinton's administration, the information minister said that it is committed to Kuwait's security and to supporting all the decisions made by President George Bush regarding Iraq. He said that during his visit to the United States he met with the President-elect's political advisers who had expressed his [Clinton's] commitment to U.S. policy in the Gulf region.

Regarding the situation on the Kuwait-Iraq border, Shaykh Sa'ud stressed the border is protected and there is nothing to worry about because Kuwaiti and other forces are guarding the northern region of the country. If Iraq thinks of responding to the air strike there will be a reply similar to what has just taken place.

At the news conference, Shaykh Sa'ud said the Kuwaiti people are very confident regarding what has taken place and have not been greatly affected. He also said Kuwaitis are not afraid or worried because the air strike did not have any internal effect.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Receives Algeria's General Nezzar

LD1101140793 Riyadh SPA in English 1310 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 11, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general received here last night the Algerian minister of defense, Khaled Nezzar and his accompanying delegation. The reception was attended by Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the vice minister of defense and aviation, Prince Mut'ib Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of public works and housing, Prince Fahd Bin- 'Abdallah, the assistant minister of defense for civil aviation affairs, many princes, ministers and high ranking civil and military officials and the Algerian ambassador to the Kingdom.

Prince Sultan awarded the Algerian minister the sash of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, second grade, and sashs for the members of the accompanying delegation as per directives of custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the supreme commander of the armed forces. Later, Prince Sultan hosted a dinner banquet in the honour of the Algerian president and his accompanying delegation. Afterwards, they held a meeting and discussed matters concerning the armed forces of the two countries and ways to enhance cooperation between them.

The meeting was attended by Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman, General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad, chief of the General Staff, and senior commanders of the Saudi armed forces.

[In an earlier related report Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 2200 GMT on 10 January states: "General Khaled Nezzar, member of the Higher State Council and minister of defense, arrived in Riyadh tonight on an official visit lasting a few days, in response to an invitation from his Saudi counterpart. A Saudi official source said that during his visit, General Khaled Nezzar will hold talks with senior Saudi officials, including in particular his Saudi counterpart, Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-'al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and inspector general in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."]

United Arab Emirates

Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' Arrives 10 Jan

JN1001173493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. He was received by UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi, high-ranking UAE Foreign Ministry officials, Syria's ambassador in Abu Dhabi, and Syrian Embassy staff.

During his visit, al-Shar' will hold talks with high-ranking UAE officials on bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab arena, and issues of mutual concern.

Confers With President

JN1001195293 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], this evening received [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who delivered to him a letter from President al-Asad dealing with Syrian efforts to resolve the current difference between the UAE and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Discussion during the meeting revolved around the Arab situation and developments in the region.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Syrian ambassador in Abu Dhabi.

Comments on Deportees; Departs

JN1101150493 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said that he hopes that at the end of their emergency meeting in Cairo today, the Arab foreign ministers will forge a unified stand on the issue of Palestinian deportees and that they will inform the UN Security Council that Israel should implement Resolution 799 which calls for the repatriation of deportees.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY upon leaving the United Arab Emirates today following a one-day visit, the Syrian minister said any failure by the Security Council—which is concerned with preserving world peace and security—to deal with the issue of the deportees, will adversely affect the Middle East peace process. The Syrian minister said deportation is a major political event and that political events necessarily influence one another. In this regard, he stressed that Israel's deportation of the Palestinians is a direct blow to the peace process. This action, he added, starkly reveals the Israelis' contradictory stand toward the process as they say they will continue the negotiations while they refuse to repatriate the deportees.

Asked if the Arabs countries can link the resumption of peace talks in February with the return of the deportees, Faruq al-Shar' said the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting will discuss this subject and each state will express its views.

Al-Shar' was seen off at the airport by Ambassador 'Ubayd Salim al-Za'abi, director of protocol at the UAE Foreign Ministry; Mustafa 'Umran, Syrian ambassador to the UAE; and a number of Foreign Ministry and Syrian Embassy officials.

Pakistani Official Meets With President

BK1101100793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs, had a meeting with Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], in Abu Dhabi and exchanged views on bilateral matters and issues concerning the Islamic world. Kanjoo also delivered a message from Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif to the UAE president. He also called on the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Shaykh Hamdan Bin- Zayid Al Nuhayyan. The Gulf situation, Kashmir issue, Serbian forces' attack on Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, status of Pakistani workers in the UAE and matters relating to the promotion of bilateral trade were particularly discussed during the meeting.

Yemen

Government Voices 'Regret' Over Air Raid on Iraq

JN1401060093 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] An official spokesman for the Yemeni Government has made a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', in which he expressed the Republic of Yemen's regret over recent developments and the use of force once again against fraternal Iraq. The spokesman

stressed the need to resolve disputes through peaceful means to maintain the unity and safety of Iraq, in terms of both land and people.

Foreign Minister on Support for U.S. Somalia Action

PM1201142693 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 11 Jan 93 pp4, 5

['Afaf Zayn report: "Al-Iryani Tells AL-WASAT: No Political Faction in Yemen Bears Grudge Against Americans in Somalia"]

[Excerpts] In a telephone interview with AL-WASAT, Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Iryani said that the Yemeni Islamic group's bombing operations against some tourist establishments in Aden did not target the U.S. forces who were deployed there. He said that "not a single political faction in the Yemen Republic bears a grudge against the U.S. forces operating in Somalia or against the United States in general. The Yemeni unity has cured us of the old ideological complexes. Politically, the Yemeni Republic supports operation Restore Hope in Somalia."

The Yemeni foreign minister believes that the recent acts of violence in Aden "will be a sufficient motivation for the two ruling parties in Yemen—the General People's Congress and the Socialist Party—to find a common concept that would end the passing, temporary contradictions between them." [passage omitted]

Al-Iryani told AL-WASAT that "the U.S. forces participating in operation Restore Hope in Somalia under UN supervision were benefiting from the facilities offered by the Yemeni Republic, especially at Aden airport. The city of Aden has become a liaison point for these forces on their way to and from Somalia." The Yemeni minister reaffirmed "Sanaa's support for operation Restore Hope in Somalia. The Yemeni Republic is preparing to contribute to that operation by sending a unit of its armed forces to participate, like other Arab states, in organizing the supply of relief aid to the Somalis."

The Yemeni foreign minister's first visit to Washington since the Kuwait liberation war took place in mid-November. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Receives Omani Information Delegation

JN1301185793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Presidential Council Vice Chairman brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid received at his office today an Omani information delegation, which includes the editors-in-chief of a number of Omani newspapers and the director of the OMANI NEWS AGENCY who are currently visiting our country. At the beginning of the meeting, the brother Presidential Council vice chairman welcomed the members of the delegation and wished them a happy stay in their Yemeni homeland, as well as every success in their mission. He expressed his hope that this visit will be the first of other visits, which Yemenis and Omanis will exchange to acquaint themselves with the two countries' experiences and achievements in various areas.

The Presidential Council vice chairman spoke to the Omani information delegation, praising Yemeni-Omani relations, which entered a new phase after the two sides signed the border agreement. The agreement, he added, represents an example of which Yemenis and Omanis are proud and through which they can deal with such a complicated issue. He also explained that solving the border problem between the two countries and signing the agreement came as a result of the true desire and good intentions of the Yemeni and Omani sides, as well as the continued efforts by the Yemeni leadership and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id's wise position.

The Presidential Council vice chairman voiced hope that the Yemenis and the Omanis will work out new examples of bilateral cooperation that will open up wider spheres for promoting the brotherly relations between the Republic of Yemen and Oman.

In his conversation, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid tackled a number of issues and developments in the national arena, as well as issues of interest to our Arab and Islamic nation. He also talked about other important international issues.

Socialist Party on Assassinations, Explosions

JN1201175593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], today chaired a meeting of the YSP Political Bureau to discuss a host of political and organizational issues on its agenda. The meeting also discussed security developments in light of the assassination attempt against brother 'Ali Salih 'Abbad Muqbil, member of the YSP Political Bureau and first secretary of the YSP organization in Abyan Governorate, and in light of the recent explosions in Aden.

The YSP Political Bureau denounced and strongly condemned these acts of terror, which fall within the context of an integrated plan that seeks not only to undermine security and stability in the country, but also to strike at unity and democracy.

The YSP Political Bureau urged the government to encourage the security organs to complete investigation with those suspected of perpetrating these acts of sabotage, to arrest fugitives, to bring all suspects to public trial, and to expose the terroristic schemes that target Yemen and its soil, stability, and democratic march.

The YSP asserted once again that such schemes require a higher vigilance by the people and all political parties and mass organizations, as well as further determination,

seriousness, and cohesion to face these acts that harm the security of the country and citizens.

The YSP further asserted that the assassination attempts against YSP members will not shake the YSP's belief in, and firm adherence to, democracy. [passage omitted]

Controversy Over Security Issues, Socialist Party

PM1201144093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

['Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari and Jamal Khashuqji report: "Yemen: Disagreements Inside Socialist Party; Al-Ahmar Accuses It of 'Disrupting Security'"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Jeddah, Aden, AL-HAYAH—For the first time in two weeks an official statement has been issued in Sanaa on the case of Shaykh Tariq Nasir 'Abdallah al-Fadli, who had taken refuge in the Mount al-Maraqishah with a number of his supporters. An authoritative Interior Ministry source told the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY that Shaykh Tariq had surrendered to "security authorities without any resistance." [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, chief of the Hashid tribes and leader of the Yemeni reform Grouping, has emphasized that the Al-Fadli case will end within days, and that the charges brought against him are "minor charges." He attributed security escalation in southern Yemen to "the Yemeni Socialist Party's [YSP] refusal to allow the tribes to restore their their standing. It wants them to remain exposed to humiliation." He accused the party of seeking to "disrupt security and fight the tribes and its opponents." [passage omitted]

Well-informed sources have emphasized that widespread discontent dominates the party's circles over Al-Fadli's transfer to Sanaa, where he now moves freely, and over President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's reception of him.

The sources pointed to a disagreement between YSP Assistant Secretary General Salim Salih Muhammad and Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid. They pointed out that the former is dissatisfied with measures and decisions taken by the latter without referring to the leading frameworks, that is the party's Political Bureau. And that he is refusing to return to Sanaa. The sources pointed out that a number of Political Bureau members, among them House of Representative Speaker Dr. Yasin Nu'man, met Mr. Salim in Aden in a bid to resolve the differences.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar told AL-HAYAH over the telephone from Jeddah that the charges brought against Al-Fadli are minor charges and "there was no need for the siege and the press' exaggeration. The main accusation raised against the man suspected of attempting to assassinate Salih 'Abbad was his taking refuge in the Mount al-Maraqishah." He added: "Suspicions surround the assassination attempt against Salih 'Abbad. The man was not wounded and he is healthy, so the escalation is meaningless." [passage omitted]

Al-Ahmar ruled out the existence of an organization for the "Jihad" in Yemen. He said: "I have no detailed information about this, but I rule out the existence of an international organization for the 'Jihad.' These are justifications presented by the YSP to disrupt security and fight the tribes and its opponents."

Commenting on the campaign launched against the Yemenis returning from Afghanistan, or the so-called Yemeni "Afghans," he said: "These are believers who rose up with their non-Yemeni brothers to fight communism, and they are the object of everyone's respect and appreciation." He described their persecution as "a world campaign led by the United States."

On the possibility of his intervention in the case of Yaslim Barasin, who is known as Abu-Mahdi and is besieged by the Army, he said: "It is a minor case and will be resolved in the coming days. The man is not a bandit or a suspect. All that is happening is part of the YSP's campaign designed to disrupt security. They want to create conditions that would prevent the elections from being held, thus driving the country into seditions and problems. But the people will not allow them to do so." He emphasized that he "received firm promises" from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih that the elections will be held in April, as planned.

In Aden, Yahya al-Shami, member of YSP Political Bureau and head of the higher control and inspection committee in the party, said that "the fabricated accusations which Tariq al-Fadli leveled at the YSP are a record often played in an attempt to link terrorism to other quarters for an objective of which the Yemeni people are well aware." He emphasized that his party, the General People's Congress' partner in power, "did not level any accusations at Tariq or any of the detainees or fugitives... But the charges brought against them by the public prosecution office are based on the confessions made by those arrested."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH Al-Shami said that "the assassinations and bombings which Aden and Abyan witnessed recently are terrorist actions whose source is outside Yemen, which is why the party stressed the need to view these actions as major crimes because they affect the homeland's sovereignty, citizens, and their security. They also threaten the democratic march." [passage omitted]

Officials', Media Reaction to Air Raid Reported

UN Envoy Announces Decision on Operations

NC1301200693 Paris AFP in English 1944 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpt] United Nations, Jan 13 (AFP)—Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdun, said Wednesday he had told the Security Council that Baghdad had halted its operations to recuperate material near the Iraq-Kuwaiti border.

He also said that the United Nations could now use its own aircraft to enter Iraq.

Hamdun told AFP that he had given this official information to current Security Council President Yoshio Hatano of Japan by telephone.

He refused to comment on Wednesday's allied air raid on Iraq. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Explains Decision

JN1401113993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—In a statement to INA, Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, has explained the background of the decision communicated last night by Iraq's UN permanent representative to the president of the Security Council on the issue of restoring Iraqi property from Umm Qasr and the demilitarized zone, and on the issue of the planes used by the United Nations in its missions in Iraq. The deputy prime minister said:

The primary issue has always been the illegitimate ban imposed by the United States, with the participation of Great Britain and France, on Iraqi aircraft in southern Iraq. We did not recognize this ban, and when it was imposed last August we clearly stated that we would resist it at the appropriate time.

When the first confrontation occurred on 27 December—a confrontation which resulted in the shooting down of an Iraqi plane by aggressor U.S. aircraft—the United States tried to depict the matter as if the air embargo was an implementation of a Security Council resolution. Despite the gigantic means of deception and reversal of facts at the disposal of the United States, we managed to expose their deliberate deception so the truth that the embargo was only an American decision, shared by Britain and France, could emerge. This placed the hostile U.S. policy in a critical corner. Therefore, George Bush's administration and the American, Western, and Zionist propaganda machine embarked on a fierce large-scale campaign aimed at confusing the facts of the situation and mixing cards. All of a sudden, the subject of retrieving Iraqi property from Umm Qasr and the demilitarized zone was inflated. The operation, which had been going on for weeks in a peaceful and organized manner by civil contractors hired for this purpose and through an agreement with UN observers, was depicted as if it were an Iraqi raid and a violation of Resolution 687.

He pointed out that at the same time, Iraq's request that the United Nations temporarily halt air travel by members of its missions, due to the possibility of aggression, was portrayed as an obstruction of the UN mission and a violation of Resolution 687.

Regrettably, the Security Council again bowed to U.S. pressure and deception. Despite the memorandums we sent to the Council and the contacts we made in New York and Baghdad to clarify the facts, on Monday, 11 January, the Security Council adopted a tendentious position and issued a statement serving the objectives of the U.S. campaign of deception. As U.S. sources themselves revealed yesterday, the decision to launch the aggression was made on Monday morning, before the Security Council even issued its statement. This emphasizes that the drafting of the statement by the U.S. representative and his allies was aimed at preparing and providing a cover for the aggression which had been decided beforehand.

To disengage the fabricated link between the main subject—resisting the illegitimate ban on aviation in the south—and the two aforementioned subjects, we decided to inform the Security Council president that Iraq will stop retrieving its property at present until an understanding on this subject is reached with UN observers. Iraq will also allow UN planes to fly at their own risk and on a case by case basis.

Our permanent representative communicated this decision to the president of the Security Council last night, Tuesday [as received]. However, an overlap occurred between the time the decision was communicated and the time when the military aggression was launched. American media organs depicted the decision as a retreat on the part of Iraq resulting from the aggression, while in fact the decision was made before the aggression even began. In addition, the permanent representative, who communicated our decision to the president of the Security Council, did not know that the aggression had truly started.

Nevertheless, and despite the aggression, we decided to maintain our decision.

The foreign minister sent a message to the president of the Security Council early this morning in which he underlined the positions already communicated to the president of the Security Council by our permanent representative.

The deputy prime minister said: Our objective is to disengage the fabricated and tendentious link between the air embargo, which is the main issue, and these two secondary issues which were used to mix cards and mislead the international community.

The deputy prime minister added: The raging battle is not a conflict with the Security Council and the United Nations, it is a battle against the Bush administration's illegitimate decision to impose an air embargo with colonialist objectives.

Regarding the political and military situation, the deputy prime minister said: Yesterday's unjust aggression has not changed our position on the basic subject of rejecting and resisting the illegitimate embargo on Iraqi flights.

The deputy prime minister added: We have rejected the new ultimatum conveyed late last night to our permanent [UN] representative by the ambassadors of the United States, Britain, France, and Russia following the aggression. We informed them that Iraq condemns their unjust aggression and reserves the right to retaliate, and this is what we will most certainly do.

Asked by INA if this meant that the resistance will continue, the deputy prime minister stressed that Iraq's resistance of the illegitimate air embargo will continue. This was stressed by President Saddam Husayn in his speech yesterday. This battle is another page in the book of the Mother of Battles, he said.

The deputy prime minister continued: George Bush is mistaken to think that Iraq will back down on its just, legitimate, and principled stand to defend its sovereignty and national unity out of fear of his planes. Any how, the real results of yesterday's aggression confirm that exaggeration and intimidation are means used by the United States to terrorize people. The aggression, in which more than 100 planes took part, did not achieve the aims the U.S. Administratioh claimed to have achieved. Tangible facts about this encounter will emerge within the coming days.

He added: During and after the Mother of Battles, they depicted the matter as if they had completely crushed Iraq and returned it to the preindustrial age. Now that two years have passed since these allegations, they are again facing Iraq. This fact in itself emphasizes that U.S. propaganda is based on lies, exaggeration, and intimidation, all to terrorize people and paralyze their will. The people of Iraq, however, have known this method and will continue their just struggle with full determination and resolve for the sake of their sovereignty and national unity.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf yesterday sent a message to UN Security Council President Yoshio Hatano informing him of Iraq's two decisions: To stop evacuating its property, and to allow UN aircraft to operate to Iraq. The following is the text of Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf's message:

Mr. Yoshio Hatano, president of the UN Security Council, New York:

Your Excellency: Pursuant to what Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent [UN] representative, had communicated to you by telephone on the issue of the retrieval of Iraqi property from Umm Qasr and the issue of UN flights, and in hopes of clearing up the confusion fabricated by the United States and its allies between these two issues and the main issue of the illegitimate embargo imposed through brutal force by America and its allies on Iraqi flights in the south, and the aggression it has been harboring against Iraq for some time now and which took place on 13 January 1993, I would like to officially inform you in writing of the following:

1. As of Wednesday, 13 January 1993, the competent Iraqi quarters will stop evacuating their property from Umm Qasr, and this halt of operations will continue until the dispute with the UN observer teams is solved and a suitable formula is reached to complete the evacuation of the aforementioned Iraqi property.

We would also like to stress the importance of reaching a suitable formula that would allow Iraq to regain its property from Umm Qasr and the demilitarized zone, as this is certainly an indisputable right.

2. I would like to inform you that the Iraqi Government has decided to allow UN aircraft to come to Iraq on a case-by-case basis, using al-Habbaniyah Airport in accordance with the previous arrangement. In this respect, we clearly stress that Iraq will not bear any responsibility for the safety of UN aircraft in Iraqi airspace in light of the aggression being carried out by U.S., British, and French planes.

Your Excellency: Our request that Iraqi civilian planes be chartered for UN purposes is still valid, and we would like to stress it once again, and we believe it should be taken seriously. Please accept our most sincere appreciation.

[Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Baghdad
[Dated] 20 Rajab 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 13 January 1993

Following is Iraq's reply to the ultimatum of the countries of aggression:

Iraq strongly condemns the act of aggression to which it was exposed by U.S., British, and French forces. In accordance with the legitimate right of self-defense, Iraq reserves its right to retaliate against this unjust and unjustified aggression.

It should also be pointed out that the United States launched another act of aggression a couple weeks ago when U.S. aircraft shot down an Iraqi plane in Iraqi national airspace on 27 December 1992.

The allegations mentioned in your paper about the position on UN resolutions are baseless.

The United States and its allies imposed the stand adopted by the Security Council on 11 January 1993.

Iraq neither violated the UN resolutions nor had any intention of doing so. Not one of Iraq's acts has proven these allegations. Iraq's stand on the issue of restoring

Iraqi property in Umm Qasr, and its proposal to temporarily halt UN flights and charter Iraqi planes instead of foreign ones, were premeditatedly depicted and distorted to mix the cards. Meanwhile, the basic issue has always been the illegitimate and unjustified embargo on Iraqi flights in the south imposed by the three countries.

Iraq can reach an understanding with the United Nations and find solutions to the problems that might occur were it not for the tendentious interference of the three countries, the U.S. Government in particular, in the UN measures. This interference is the cause of any problems and is the main factor behind the fabricated escalation.

This asserts that the three countries impose their will on the United Nations and use it for purposes that are not related to the UN Charter or the interests of world nations.

If you want to avoid confrontation and achieve peace, you should leave our national airspace and allow our people to live in accordance with their own choices. Your countries did not abide—in these acts—by the rules of international law, the [UN] Charter, or the principles of justice and peace.

Saddam: 'Criminals Have Come Back'

JN1301224093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2141 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Address by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the Iraqi people and the Arab nation; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But God knoweth. And ye know not. [Koranic verse] O great people, O sons of our glorious Arab nation, O bold men of our brave Armed Forces: Look! The criminals have come back again, carrying with them their grudges and the machines of evil, just as they did the first time on 16-17 January 1991. They came back this evening without a cover, not even a weak cover. They came back for the same purpose, a purpose they did not disclose during their first vile aggression, namely imposing the will of colonialism and usurping the nations' will.

They came back to say to the Iraqis, and through them to every free and honorable person: You have no choice but to submit to evil, as it is an inevitable and overwhelming will over every faith, virtue, honor, and faithful position. Let them be cursed and disappointed. The faithful Iraqis, the men of al-Qadisiyah and the eternal Mother of Battles and the people of peaks and of sacrifice confronted them. Faith has recorded through their position, jihad, and courage its unprecedented heights in this time. They were faced by the sons of unblemished Iraqi women, the sons of women of honorable descent, the source of honor and patriotism, and of fervor and faith. They were confronted by the sons of those whose hearts never wavered and who have never succumbed. They were faced by the faithful once more, as was the case the first time around, with a greater faith in victory, and with a greater energy, endurance, and patience. They were faced with hearts filled with faith in Almighty God to face the [word indistinct] of the unjust infidel. God is capable of granting success to the faithful as He has always done. O God, provide protection to the people of Iraq and its great army, and brighten with faith the faces of a faithful people.

O great people: Between 2100 and 2130 tonight, the U.S. aggressors and those who rode on their bandwagon influenced by the devil attacked our air defenses, starting with the southern sector of the great land of Iraq—a humiliation decreed for all of them by God. Thus began another jihad battle, desired by God, so that it would be a clear victory for you, O glorious people, God willing, and a sustained disgrace for the infidel losers and their accomplices. May they be accursed and the criminals be crushed.

O men within our valiant Armed Forces; O men of the al-Qadisiyah [Iran-Iraq war] battle and the Mother of Battles; O courageous men, antiaircraft weapons men; O lofty falcons working within the ranks of our Air Force; O you forehead of Iraq and its sword, which has been lent further strength in terms of faith and jihad by God: Fight against them as you fought the enemies of God before, and extinguish the fire of hatred in the muzzles of their weapons by the light of faith emanating from your hearts and also by the efficiency of your weapons, which are vindicated by God, and which you are carrying in your right hands so that Iraq's skies may turn into a multitude of nations fighting against the tyrants, from northern Iraq to southern Iraq, and from eastern Iraq to western Iraq. Each aircraft of theirs in the sky of Iraq is a target for your weapons. Use the name of God and you will find them wrecked, God willing. God is great, God is great, God is great. May the lowly be accursed. May God render us victorious in the assault. How sweet is victory, with God's help. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Communique Details Attack

JN1401083593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0755 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Unscheduled announcement: Communique No. 64, issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. And we have put a bar in front of them and a bar behind them, and further, we have covered them up;

so that they cannot see. [Koranic verses] God, grant us victory in this battle; how sweet victory is with God's help.

O great Iraqi people; O stalwart men in our valiant Armed Forces, pride of the Arabs and the banner of the faithful mujahidin: At 2100 on 13 January 1993, the treacherous U.S.-Zionist enemy launched a new sinister aggression against the Iraq of glory and faith; the Iraq that raised, in the name of God and in the name of all mujahidin, the banner of jihad against infidelity and infidels, and against tyranny and tyrants.

The aircraft of treachery and aggression entered from Saudi territory, targeting the values of right, virtue, good, and justice in our great Iraq. What the aggressive tyrants achieved was only a tiny portion of their sick dreams; an amount which God wished to be achieved and which is less than what the faithful had expected. Only disappointment and bitterness were reaped by the infidels, slaves of computers and electronics, which do nothing in the face of the determination of the mujahidin, whom God has supplied with support and granted splendid victory.

The air attack by the evil ones lasted between 2100 and 2256. Their aggressive air raids targetted some areas populated by civilians in the outskirts of the city of cities, the steadfast al-Basrah; in Holy al-Najaf, the city of our forefather 'Ali, peace be upon him; and in the governorates of al-Muthanna, Dhi Qar, and Maysan; as well as a number of military sites and civilian homes.

Praised be God for His great support. We thank God for the steadfastness of the heroes and people—a steadfastness which will cause the infidels and traitors such frustration, the bitter results of which they will not be able to avoid after God has failed and disappointed them.

Our sacrifices were 17 martyred and eight wounded from our Armed Forces, and two civilian martyrs and another seven wounded. Our losses in equipment were minor. The aggressive aerial bombardment demolished a number of citizens' homes.

Praised be God, the supporter of the believers and the humiliator of the infidels. God is great. Let the lowly by accursed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 Rajab 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 14 January 1993

Opposition Holds Saddam 'Responsible'

NC1401091193 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Husayn Sha'ban, secretary of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, in London, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, carried on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Sha'ban] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Let me first ask you about the statement you issued a short time ago regarding the air raid against Iraq. What are the details?

[Sha'ban] We held Saddam Husayn responsible for the escalation and the tension, and especially for subjecting the Iraqi people to the danger of bombardment and for destroying the military establishment. We already had appealed to the military establishment to participate effectively in getting rid of Saddam Husayn and the ruling regime, to take the people's side to save them from this very difficult and critical situation, and to end the regime's reckless, oppressive, and adventurist policy.

[Al-Jundi] After the strike, which was a result of Saddam's defiance, obstinacy, and lack of concern about the people of Iraq and their capabilities, what is the Iraqi opposition going to do?

[Sha'ban] While the opposition Iraqi National Congress does not want to see Iraq turned into a battlefield again and hopes that our people will not be subjected to further suffering and woes, paying a heavy price for the adventurism of their rulers, it calls on the whole world and asks the United Nations and the Security Council to implement Resolution 688, to protect human rights in Iraq, and to promote the above-mentioned resolution by setting a mechanism for its implementation and by basing it on Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. We also call on the world community to deliver relief aid directly to the Iraqi people through UN offices and international humanitarian bodies without going through Iraqi Government agencies. We also have called for saving the Iraqi people, who paid the price for their leaders' recklessness, whether through the invasion of Kuwait or the war with Iran, which was absolutely unjustified. The Iraqis are suffering and remain subjected to threats and destruction by Saddam Husayn and his regime as a result of Saddam's reckless, provocative, and aggressive policy.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. Sha'ban: Saddam Husayn has frequently adopted a challenge-and-retreat policy. At the beginning, he announced he would not move the surface-to-air missiles as demanded by the international ultimatum. But he did move them later, saying this was part of routine preparations, as claimed by the Iraqi foreign minister. I return once again to Saddam's policy and his attempts to take advantage of changes in certain areas of the world, such as the departure of U.S. President George Bush and the arrival of Bill Clinton. How do you view Saddam's games?

[Sha'ban] Saddam is suffering from a severe internal problem. He lacks popular support, and the people are taking the brunt of the blockade. Saddam, therefore, continues to try to attract foreign attention and to turn the danger into an external one. We, therefore, see him installing missile batteries here and there, and then

withdrawing them; claiming Kuwait, and then acknowledging international resolutions and pledging to return the booty to Kuwait. There is no confidence in Saddam's regime or his statements, either at home or abroad. The regime has no credibility at all, whether on the local, Arab, regional Islamic, non-Islamic, or international levels. Saddam violated international legitimacy and pursued a policy harming the higher national interests of our country. He relinquished national sovereignty through his shameful surrender and reckless adventures. The Iraqi people and all Iraqi opposition factions, therefore, are struggling to replace the regime with a legitimate, constitutional administration that acknowledges human rights, respects international treaties and conventions, and recognizes the UN Charter—a regime that adopts a peaceful policy toward neighboring countries and the rest of the world.

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Following the allied air raid on Iraq, what will your next moves be, and what are the most important steps the Iraqi opposition, represented by the Iraqi National Congress, will make in the future?

[Sha'ban] Inside Iraq, the Iraqi opposition operates in the northern region—Iraqi Kurdistan—and in southern Iraq. Anti- regime operations also take place here and there in the capital and in other parts of Iraq. The Iraqi opposition now is moving more extensively inside Iraq, especially in the marshlands, large parts of which are controlled by the revolutionaries. The opposition also is moving on the international level, calling on the big powers, the United Nations, and the permanent Security Council member states to distinguish between punishing the Iraqi people and shelling Saddam Husayn personally. The opposition also is active on the Arab and regional levels, appealing to the Arab League, regional Arab and Islamic neighbors—Egypt, Syria, and all Arab countries—to help spare the Iraqi people new disasters due to the provocative and adventurist policy of Saddam, as he provokes the international community and subjects the Iraqi people to danger and instability and the Iraqi national sovereignty to further relinquishment, as has happened over the past two years. The opposition appeals to the Iraqi Army to play an important role by taking the side of the people and confronting Saddam and his ruling clique. It appeals to the Army to cooperate with the people and the opposition to save the country and end Iraq's ongoing suffering and tragedy.

[Al-Jundi] How long will the Iraqi people continue to face dangers under a leadership that does not take the interests of the Iraqis into consideration?

[Sha'ban] It must be said that this despotic, totalitarian, and dictatorial regime must leave, and that power must return to the people. Genuine democratic transformation is needed. This includes holding free elections, electing a national council, creating a permanent constitution, respecting human rights, and recognizing the principle of (?power sharing). It also involves social tolerance, renunciation of revenge and violence in Iraqi society, and, consequently, placing the country at the threshold of real progress and establishing good and cordial relations with neighboring countries, all Arab and Islamic countries, and the entire world. The main task which we are struggling to accomplish is the overthrow of the regime and the establishment of an alternative government freely accepted by the people—a regime in harmony with the world community, international legality, and the new developments in the world, and which leans toward democracy, respect for human rights, and political pluralism. This is our national plan according to which we are opposing the ruling regime in Baghdad.

[Al-Jundi] At the end of this dialogue, we thank Dr. 'Abd-al- Husayn Sha'ban, secretary of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, and we always welcome him to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Sha'ban] Thank you. May God grant you success.

Allied Planes Called 'Targets'

JN1401112493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0940 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen: Yesterday, the fire of anger was rekindled in the hearts of Iraqis at the criminals, who returned with the machine of rancor and evil, just as they did the first time. Yesterday, the Iraqi sky was again set on fire by the will of brave men while they confronted the aggressors' aircraft with the flame of justice and faith.

Yesterday, the Iraqis began a new stage of the Mother of Battles, a stage which Saddam Husayn's brave men decided to be the beginning of the end of all injustice inflicted by the brutal aggressors on the Iraqi people. This will be revealed by the heroes' weapons while turning the aggressors' aircraft in Iraq's sky into targets which they will pursue and destroy, God willing.

The criminals, led by Bush, began another battle against the people of Iraq. However, thanks to the will of God and the leader, this battle will be an evil curse on the aggressors.

Iraq has been linked with heroism and her people have been linked with bravery. This has been clearly embodied by this solid will with which we confronted the aggressors—regardless of their identity, nationality, and weapons—dispersed all their schemes and plots, and destroyed all their trenches with their tools of treachery and killing. The Iraqis remained giants in their positions, smacking of bravery which was apparent in all their stands, dialogues, and talks. Their dignity remained the crown of their pride and existence. Leader Saddam Husayn remained, and will remain, God willing, a source of their strength and steadfastness in front of the armies of falsehood controlled and led by criminal Bush.

Saddam Husayn has become a spiritual and moral source for all Iraqis from which they draw support to

confront difficulties and through whom they become reassured about their dignity, pride, and honor, as well as the honor of their homeland.

The enemies began a new battle against Iraq, but, God willing, it will be the opening of a splendid victory for Iraq and the Iraqis. The whole world will see how the Iraqis will retaliate, how the Iraqis will decorate their sky with medals of pride and splendid victory, and how the will of the Iraqis, which is supported by the strength of faith in God and by His power, will astonish the world when they destroy the treacherous aircraft and turn Iraq's sky from its north and its south into a fire burning the aggressors.

Paper Says 'Aggression' To Fail

JN1401091793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper says: The Iraqis will resist and fight the enemies and Iraq's sky, from north to south and from east to west, will turn into fire to burn the tyrants and their blind rancor. Under the headline "We Will Fight the Invaders and Achieve Splendid Victory," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The valiant men of the al-Qadisiyah [Iran-Iraq war] and the Mother of Battles will face the vile act of the aggressors and will teach them how homelands are defended and how principles are protected.

AL-JUMHURIYAH article adds: The sons of Iraq confronted the new aggression as they confronted the first aggression on the night of 16 January 1991. They confronted the aggression with vigilance, faith in the heart, high militant spirit, and courage and the new jihad battle will be the beginning of a splendid victory.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that the sons of Iraq, together with all honest people, are very confident that the criminal aggression will end with failure as the chapters of conspiracy ended during the past two years.

Musims Urged To Wage 'Holy War'

NC1401122893 Paris AFP in English 1130 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 14 (AFP)—A newspaper run by President Saddam Husayn's eldest son called Thursday for Muslims the world over to wage a holy war against "the enemy" in the wake of the allied air strike.

The newspaper BABIL, run by Saddam's eldest son 'Udayy, said Muslims should "turn their rage" over Wednesday's air raids into a "holy war to hurt the enemy by striking his interests."

"We have to use methods equal to the challenge that faces us" in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Iraq and "Palestine", the paper said.

Iraq is holding an Islamic congress of 1,000 delegates from 51 countries from Saturday [16 January] to show Muslim support on the second anniversary of the Gulf war.

Paper Asserts 'Victory' Over Bush

JN1401092493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0752 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has asserted that Bush's threats and aggressiveness will not change Iraq's leadership, national and pan-Arab will, and legitimate and just ambitions, which have only hardened with time.

In an article published here today, AL-THAWRAH, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Through reconstruction, Iraq has triumphed over Bush's 30-state aggression and its destructive results. Iraq has also defeated the political objectives of that aggression by preserving, in full, its leadership, will, program, and course.

It adds: Iraq's victory has become an established fact that raises questions over Bush's allegations about what he has achieved through his hostile action against Iraq.

The paper stresses that despite his threats and aggressive measures, criminal Bush has failed to impose his will over the land of Iraq and is trying to compensate for his losses on the ground by attempting to control Iraq's skies with U.S. decisions to impose a ban [on flights]; decisions which Iraq is resisting, both politically and in practice.

The paper notes that Bush's aggressive hysteria is, as far as his viewpoint is concerned, the only conceived venue to change the final results of his 30-state aggression and election campaign.

The paper says: Bush is now repeating the lies which no one but he himself believes and is repeatedly trying to paint a picture of an Iraq that yields to the will of aggression.

The paper explains that Bush is trying to make President-elect Clinton inherit his heavy burden of economic recession, as well as his foreign political program.

Citizens Reassured on Gas Supplies

JN1301203393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2013 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to his excellency the president and supervisor of the industries and oil sector, this evening urged citizens to avoid rushing to gas stations.

He added that the Ministry of Oil does not intend to ration gasoline or other fuel at gas stations. He noted that the ministry has taken all necessary measures to ensure

that gas stations continue to perform their work normally and dispense gasoline and other fuel as usual.

Kurdish Troops Deployed To Protect Front

NC1301190793 Paris AFP in English 1827 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Ankara, Jan 13 (AFP)—Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq went on "maximum alert" Wednesday along their front facing Iraqi troops fearing reprisal attacks in response to a raid by allied forces, a Kurdish source said.

U.S., French and British warplanes launched a raid on Iraq on Wednesday, according to French, U.S. and British sources.

The Kurdish source, contacted in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil, said Iraq had sent troop reinforcements to guard anti- aircraft missile sites in the region of Mosul, within the no-fly zone above the 36th parallel imposed by Western allies after the Gulf War.

The source, who requested anonymity, said two Iraqi army corps comprising some 70,000 men armed with artillery and tanks had been deployed around Mosul and Khakurk. [passage omitted]

Minister Cables Saddam on Gulf War Anniversary

JN1301154393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jan 93

["Text" of cable from Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, to President Saddam Husayn on 13 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate! O ye who believe, persevere in patience and constancy! Vie in such perseverance, strengthen each other, and fear God that ye may prosper! [Koranic verses]

Esteemed leader President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq and Armed Forces commander in chief: The second anniversary of the brute 30-state military aggression against our struggling country falls on 17 January. The failed colonialists, the lackeys of world Zionism, used in this aggression all weapons of destruction savagely to undermine the new Iraqi individual, who alarmed them with his great achievements and who said no to aggression and injustice under your historic leadership, which added new glory and pride to the Iraqis and the honorable people of the nation of Arabs.

Mr. Leader President: Despite the large forces and technology of the infidel gathering, led by criminal Bush, and the small ones of the descendants of failed Crusaders and rascal traitors, the faithful assembly, under your steadfast jihad leadership, achieved overwhelming victory over the villains throughout the region in the biggest honorable historic confrontation, which will be recorded by history with letters of light. The facts of this confrontation are becoming clearer day after day for the honorable and fair-minded people of the world, who are getting to know the reality of these deep-rooted, glorious people who possess the most ancient human civilization which illuminated the path of mankind.

Mr. Leader President: This anniversary kindles our enthusiasm and determination to pursue jihad in the face of the continuing exposed and failed plotting against our people and their national unity, as well as against the aspirations of our glorious Arab nation. We will both maintain our steadfastness and pursue construction in the largest counterattack that will lead us, God willing, to final victory. A new dawn of civilized awakening will break, and Iraq will deservedly be in the vanguard, since it is the vibrant heart of the nation and the real defender of its legitimate objectives and aspirations for a free, dignified life.

Mr. Leader President: We, your stalwart soldiers in our valiant Armed Forces, pledge to remain brandished swords, which were tested in battlefields, to defend our great Iraq and our giant people and defeat the covetous ones among the miserable enemies and their subservient, treasonous agents, who have been trying desperately for over two years to achieve a part of their evil objectives. However, the Iraqis' rallying around your jihad faithful leadership, as well as their high awareness, defeated Zionist-colonialist conspiracies and wagers. Your faithful people have turned the unjust blockade into a curse on them in the greatest jihad phase which you are leading with high faith and patience and amid signs of imminent victory.

Mr. Leader President: The treacherous ones have once again tried to commit a treacherous act against great Iraq while less than two years have passed, so as to undermine what has been constructed by the stalwart strugglers, the sons of your Iraq, including men and glorious women, who stood proudly alongside their zealous sons.

Allow me, Mr. Leader President, to say on this occasion that your sons and soldiers stand like a lofty mountain in the face of the vile ones and traitors, dedicating their lives to defending the soil of Iraq, its skies and waters.

Order us, Mr. President, and you will find that we, with God's assistance, have patience and are strugglers to liberate the land from the filth of traitors in the north and far south of beloved Iraq, after the treacherous ones have managed, with the help of a handful of agents, to desecrate the land of civilizations, the land of glories, the land of the Tigris and Euphrates and Saddam's River.

Mr. Leader President: I beseech God to grant you success and keep you a support and canopy for all honorable Iraqis and a hope for the good Arabs, as well as an example for humanity at large.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you!

[Signed] Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister

Country Anticipates Air Strike; Military Watchful

IDF Following Iraqi Situation

TA1301175793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1735 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Report by army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik—live]

[Text] The defense establishment is following the developments in Iraq. Israeli sources have clarified that for the time being, the escalation does not concern Israel directly. The issue in question is a pinpointed event, taking place far from Israel. At the same time, constant consultations are being held in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], in which a variety of scenarios is being examined.

Israeli sources have stressed that if the IDF decides to update the population about the new situation, if and when it so chooses, it will. In any event, the Iraqi threat, the surface-to-air missiles mentioned at this time, are a localized threat.

Scope of Attack Predicted

TA1301191893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1850 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Report by correspondent Netan'el Semrik]

[Text] The Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] spokesman has just issued a very comforting announcement in response to the reports of a possible attack by the allied forces in the Persian Gulf. The IDF spokesman reports that the defense establishment believes that the scope of the possible attack will be limited and will be made in response to the Iraqi violations of the UN resolutions and that it is not expected that the events would expand beyond the Persian Gulf.

The Israeli public is called upon to continue their normal routine. The defense establishment is set and prepared and is following developments.

It is worth noting that Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and the defense minister, is in his office at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv. He is being constantly updated and holding consultations with various elements.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 13 January adds: "The Defense Ministry is operating what is called a crisis chamber [ta mashber], which will follow the developments in the Gulf around the clock."]

Peres Views Developments in Iraq

TA1301190093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1850 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Gid'on Remez in Paris "a short time ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Peres] Iraq needs to be taught a lesson. It is a rampaging country—in weapons, aggressive stands, threats all around, unreasonable outbursts. It is high time it was taught a lesson.

[Remez] Is this potentially dangerous to us?

[Peres] We need to be careful and alert, but this is not a battle between Iraq and Israel.

[Remez] Is Israel involved in any way in the preparations? Had it known about these plans?

[Peres] Not that I know of.

Air Attack on Iraq Reported; Future Threats Viewed

Rabin Sees no Effects on Israel

TA1301200393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1945 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Statement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin "at the beginning of his address to the Israel-Britain Chamber of Commerce at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel 10 minutes ago"—recorded]

[Text] The U.S. forces and their allies, France and England, have attacked Iraqi targets. As far as I know, the attack has ended. Its objectives were limited, and the allies are apparently waiting to see its political outcome.

Because the operation was limited and aimed at the Persian Gulf area, we estimate that it will not affect the situation in Israel. Therefore, we call on the public to carry on their normal lives. As you see, I am here tonight, and I feel very well.

At the same time, the defense establishment is set and prepared for any development. Even in this situation of uncertainty, I think it is very important to carry on the daily routine, to continue working, to produce, and to live our lives as long as there are no new developments.

Rabin Holds News Conference

TA1401121793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report by military affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik]

[Text] A news conference called by Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, just ended a few minutes ago. The prime minister concluded that Israelis should simply carry on with their daily routine, as those responsible for the country's preparation and deployment are already doing their job. He clarified that he was referring to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the defense establishment. Rabin explained that his assessments are based on information Israel and other Middle Eastern countries received from the United States, according to which the U.S. attack was limited and will be evaluated mainly at the political level; the impact is

already evident in the statement made by the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations.

Moving on to assess the developments he expects over the next few days, the prime minister said he does not wish to speculate about the future. Rabin said Middle Eastern nations had received U.S. clarifications that the attacks were limited to specific and defined targets inside Iraq. Nevertheless, Rabin said, the United States has already declared that it reserves the right to react without warning in the event of any further Iraqi violations of the Security Council restrictions.

[In a related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el Radio in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 14 January, correspondent Karmela Menashe adds that "Mr. Rabin does not expect the United States to inform us of its objectives unless they have an impact on us. The United States has a certain commitment to provide early warnings in a certain field, and it did so."]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also leveled criticism or, shall we say, expressed concern about the Iranian military buildup, as well as that of the Iraqis. He spoke about Iran's religious fundamentalism, which engenders megalomaniac ambitions regarding the Middle East. The prime minister warned about Iran, which is building up its medium- and long-range military arsenal, including weapons of mass destruction.

Situation Expected To 'Calm Down'

TA1401053793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the defense establishment are continuing to keep a close watch on the situation in Iraq and related developments. Qol Yisra'el's military correspondent says the defense establishment believes that the allied strike was limited in scope and carried out in response to Iraqi violations. Military sources say they expect the situation to calm down after the Iraqis informed the United Nations of their readiness to allow UN inspection teams to use Iraqi airspace and to stop their forces from crossing the border into Kuwait.

These sources told Qol Yisra'el that several hundred thousand citizens have yet to receive gas masks. The sources said if the home front is required to begin rapid distribution of the gas kits, this could be done within a short time. The sources also said that since the beginning of the gas kit renewal program, some 630,000 citizens have been supplied with the new equipment. Those who have not received the kits include babies born after the original equipment was distributed, new immigrants, demobilized soldiers, and returning residents.

Israel's chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, now in the United States, reported by telephone to Prime Minister Rabin about an updated report he received from the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell, on the allied strike. Rabin and Baraq agreed that Baraq would remain in the United States despite the tension in the Gulf.

Powell, speaking at a reception for Baraq at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, said it would be a mistake for Saddam to respond militarily to the allied strike. He said the United States would always make sure Israel maintains a military edge in the region. Baraq expressed hope at the reception that by his next visit to the United States, Saddam would no longer be in power in Iraq.

[Begin Baraq recording] Two years after, once again you are facing the Iraqi dictator who threatens not only his Arab neighbors and Israel but the stability of the whole region and the free flow of oil to the free world. We wish you success. And, who knows, maybe the next time I'm here, Saddam won't be there anymore. [end recording]

IDF Assesses Iraqi Scud Supply

TA1401061793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman believes there is no room for concern at this stage. Defense sources stressed that Israel has no part in or connection with the events in Iraq. The sources estimated that the chances of an attack on Israel are small because, among other reasons, this time Saddam Husayn is not faced with a coalition headed by United States and including Arab states. A missile attack on Israel could cause the situation to deteriorate,—something in which it is doubtful Saddam is interested. The restrictions imposed on Israel two years ago no longer exist, and the assumption is that if Israel is attacked this time, it will respond.

Saddam Husayn's operational capability is limited compared to the eve of the Gulf war, and he is not threatening to attack Israel. Nevertheless, military sources estimate that Iraq has dozens of Scud missiles and a small number of launchers, so that, from a technical viewpoint, he has the tools and the ability to strike. The precise number of missiles and Saddam's technical and logistic capability are unclear. The current evaluation is the result of an appraisal of the number of missiles the Iraqis launched during the Gulf war and during their war with Iran and of how many missiles are left. Military sources believe the Iraqis do not want to expand or escalate the current crisis. Iraq's announcement that it is ready to accept any UN demand points to the validity of the evaluation that it does not want to exacerbate the crisis. [passage omitted]

Minister on Ongoing Iraqi Threat

TA1401080093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by Ya'aqov Eylon and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Eylon] Is it all over at this stage, in your view?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I think we can say that the second round is over for the time being. I do not think anyone can promise that tomorrow or the next day or next month or in two months Saddam Husayn will not continue. We hear his declarations. His people have totally capitulated—they have permitted UN flights and given commitments—while Saddam continues to say that the criminals have returned to the region. It is very difficult to predict his moves. In my view, as long as he is alive and kicking there—and, in the meantime, he is alive and kicking—I do not think anyone can guarantee that tomorrow or the next day we will not find ourselves facing a new situation.

[Mardor] Do you join those who are reassuring us that we have no connection with what is happening there?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] We are not involved. First, we are discussing two different things. This is not the same Iraq as during the Gulf war. It is a country that has suffered a blow; it is a country whose infrastructure, which threatened Israel, has practically ceased to exist. Its leader no longer bandies about Israel's name wantonly. On the other hand, the issue is between the allies and Iraq over violations of commitments made to the United Nations. We are not and should not be involved. It is our job to make sure that we demonstrate maximum alertness, because we are responsible for the safety of the people of Israel.

[Eylon] Do you think that this time, Saddam Husayn has not yet been pushed to the wall, as perhaps he was pushed exactly two years ago?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] No, I think not. I believe Saddam Husayn tried some mischief in order to show the new U.S. Administration where he stands. You know what? He is signaling: Look, Bush is leaving, and I am alive and well. Beyond that, I regret to say that as long as he exists, as long as he is alive and his surroundings depend on him—only one person has a say there, and everybody else toes the line—I see the Saddam threat cropping up from time to time. I just hope that the West understands the extent of the danger and continues to exert pressure in order to first bring about the implementation of all the Security Council resolutions and second to consider what future actions should be taken against him. It is interesting that nobody in the Arab world has sided with him except for 'Arafat, who once again is the only Arab giving him moral support while, at the same time, running to the United Nations calling for backing.

[Mardor] Minister Ben-Eli'ezer, as long as the threat from that man, as you call him, exists, to what extent is Israel being updated by the United States?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I believe that in the current state of U.S.-Israeli relations, Israel is being updated and in time.

[Eylon] Has Israel been told things such as: Wait quietly on the sidelines, as we were told two years ago?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] No, not that I know of, and I think I am in the know. Again, as I have said, we are talking about two separate things. It is not exactly the same situation that existed on the eve of the Gulf war. Something has changed.

Six Deportees To Regain Predeportation Status

TA1301185293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] A defense establishment probe into the deportee affair shows that six more men will be allowed to regain their predeportation status. The six are Hamas activists who had been tried and convicted by military courts.

Attorney General Yosef Harish, who informed the High Court of Justice of the probe results, further advised the High Court that because of technical problems, 78 additional deportation orders were not carried out on the night of the deportations. He said that the number of men who were slated to be deported was to have been 500 and not 415.

Legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the state's response includes a Shin Bet expert's affidavit about the Hamas and Islamic Jihad organizations. The affidavit details the events that preceded the deportations and states that the cabinet decision came in the wake of a recommendation by defense elements. The affidavit will be used by the High Court when it debates the legality of the deportations.

Attorney General's Affidavit on Deportation Detailed

TA1401125393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jan 93 p A7

[Report by legal affairs correspondent Dalya Shehori]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It transpires from the affidavit submitted by Attorney General Yosef Harish to the High Court of Justice that the chief of staff was not party to the consultations preceding the government's decision on the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. According to the affidavit, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin spoke twice on the phone with the chief of staff and the head of the Shin Bet "and told them that he intends to recommend to the cabinet to allow the deportation of a large number of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists for a definite period of time."

The affidavit further notes that had the deportations been carried out as in the past, including giving the prospective deportees the right to a hearing, this would have impaired effective implementation and would not have met the need to provide an immediate and urgent response to the security threats created in the territories and in Israel as a result of the actions of Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

According to the affidavit, had any element of the deportations been scrapped—the specific individuals who were deported, their number, and the speed with

which the deportations was carried out—this might have "detracted from their effectiveness."

Moreover, the way the deportations was carried out "dealt a severe blow to the activities of Hamas and Islamic Jihad" in the territories, which have decreased noticeably. The affidavit notes that there is nothing wrong with the fact that the deportees are not allowed to appear before an appeals committee in person, seeing that they are entitled to plead their case in writing, and "there is a precedent stating that the right to a hearing before the infringement of civil rights is not inalienable."

The affidavit stresses that even if the court rules that the right to a hearing in retrospect impinges on the rights of the deportees, this would not invalidate the deportation orders. Moreover, under the circumstances, even if severe errors were made with the deportation orders requiring their invalidation or the personal appearance of the deportees before an appeals committee "there is no room to do that" seeing that the return of the deportees "would seriously jeopardize public order."

The 47-page-long affidavit is appended to another 104 pages of appendices, including the opinion of an expert on behalf of the Shin Bet about the profile and the modus operandi of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich Says Syria 'Serious' About Peace

TA1301163993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The Syrian stand, favoring the renewal of the peace talks independently of the deportee affair, indicates that it is serious with regard to the peace process. These remarks were made today by Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador-designate to the United States. He is encouraged by the statements made by President-elect Bill Clinton in support of Israel's demands to obtain Syrian guarantees. Our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck reports:

[Begin recording] [Beck] Prof. Rabinovich believes that the Syrian reasoning for the resumption of the bilateral negotiations despite the deportee affair, according to which the Arabs can only profit from staying on this track, is an ideological ladder which would facilitate dismounting the high horse that the Palestinians are about to mount.

[Rabinovich] We have known for quite some time that Syria is not only very serious with regard to its negotiations with us, but also that it regards them as a potential means for the fulfillment and attainment of an agreement. The agreement will have to look good to the Syrians, but, naturally, it will also have to look good to us. When the Syrians arrived at the point where they have to make a choice between full, absolute, and automatic support for the Palestinians, and between the attempt to exhaust the negotiations—which they view as beneficial—they, as they always do, chose to return to the negotiating table.

[Beck] A Palestinian absence from the Washington talks would make it difficult for the Syrians to renew the negotiations, but Prof. Rabinovich believes that the deportee affair would allow the Syrians to improve their image in the eyes of the new U.S. Administration.

[Rabinovich] I believe it is more reasonable to expect that the closer we get to the date, once it is set, the Syrians and others will try to find ways which would allow the Palestinians to come to the talks. I believe this is the way it would be done, with Syria trying, primarily, not only to solve this problem, but also to prove to the Clinton administration that the key to solving such problems is in Syrian hands; thus, Syria is a valuable regional power; thus, it is worth it for the United States to build a relationship with it. I believe this is the more realistic scenario. [end recording]

Minister Assesses Progress in Syrian Negotiations

TA1301140393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Speaking on behalf of the government at the Knesset today, Health Minister Hayim Ramon said that far-reaching progress has been made in the negotiations with Syria. He said there is no legal restriction on territorial negotiations with the Syrians. In any event, he said, there will be no withdrawal from the Golan before security arrangements are agreed on with Syria.

Responding to Knesset members' [MK] queries about the current state of negotiations with the Syrians, Minister Ramon said that the tactics of negotiations cannot be publicly exposed. Correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Ramon was responding to several motions to the Knesset agenda.

Marking six months since the establishment of the Rabin government, Likud MK's attacked the government in a series of motions to the agenda. 'Ovadya Eli, who is active on social issues, accused the government of total failure in the way it has been handling unemployment, social welfare, and immigrant absorption.

MK Ari'el Sharon charged that the government has totally lost control of the territories. For example, he noted, the defense establishment was unaware of a Gaza rally which thousands attended in response to a call by Hamas. MK Sharon added that Rabin's plan of withdrawal from the Golan Heights nullifies Israel's northern defense line.

Correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Hayim Ramon, who took the podium to respond to these charges on behalf of the government, left the podium in view of the loud heckling from the opposition benches. He said that the government is waiving its right to respond in view of this shameful behavior, as he put it.

Ukrainian President Opens Embassy; Ends Visit

TA1301200093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk tonight ended his visit by officially opening the Ukrainian Embassy on Stricker Street in Tel Aviv. Our correspondent 'Anat Peled attended the visiting president's concluding news conference.

[Begin recording] [Peleg] My visit to Israel was very successful, says Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, summing up his visit. We turned over a new leaf in the relationship between the two countries, and we signed a memorandum of understanding which will enable the two countries to maintain closer ties.

When I ask the president about the fate of the 12 Ukrainian Jews who were refused an exit visa, he replies that he will set up an inquiry commission which will be guided by the principle that citizens must be free to choose where to live.

On the issue of anti-Semitism, the guest points out that it is not a part of the Ukraine's official policy. We are a young, inexperienced democracy, and I have therefore instructed our Supreme Court to check this aspect in our legal code.

With regard to the issue of the Ukraine's ballistic arsenal, the president is asked how he will prevent professionals whose work is discontinued from relaying information about nuclear installations to Israel's enemies. He replies that the United States is involved in the solution of the problem. We intend to use the know-how acquired by our nuclear scientists in peacetime projects.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk concludes saying that he has not discussed the Ivan Demjanjuk case with President Hayim Herzog, but as one who has read the Bible and learned about the quest for truth, he hopes the Israeli court will act appropriately, and that nothing will separate the Ukrainian and the Israeli peoples. [end recording]

Officials, Media React to Air Attack on Iraq

Prime Minister on 'Double Standards'

JN1401073693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has said Jordan received with deep regret and concern reports of yesterday's coalition air attack against Iraq. In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the prime minister said: The Jordanian Government and people have always called for resolving the Gulf crisis through peaceful means. The prime minister added: The use of force, since the very beginning of the Gulf crisis, has only contributed to splitting and damaging the Arab world and inflicted great suffering on the Iraqi people, the neighborly Arab countries, and the Arab and Islamic world.

The prime minister went on to say: The resumption of military operations and threats to carry out more in the future, instead of resorting to dialogue and diplomacy, can only increase the deep disappointment and anger felt by Arabs and Muslims at a time when they see a policy of double standards regarding the implementation of Security Council resolutions.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir said: Arab and Muslim frustration has increased because the United Nations does not demonstrate the same determination in implementing all its resolutions. This is clear in the case of Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians from their homeland and the Israeli Government's refusal to respect Security Council resolutions regarding their return.

His excellency added: In addition to this, the policy of double standards is also clear in the failure to adopt any measures on the genocide being practiced against Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Foreign Minister Expresses 'Deep Concern'

JN1401071093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has expressed his deep concern over news agency reports on developments in southern Iraq.

During a telephone conversation with our correspondent, the foreign minister called for resolving differences through negotiation and dialogue, away from the use of force.

Information Minister Denounces Attack

JN1401065893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif has said the Jordanian Government has received with regret and denunciation the news of the resumption of military operations against Iraq by the allied countries last night.

The minister's comments come in light of the fact that these operations have occurred two years after the end of the Gulf war, which led to numerous problems and tragedies from which the Iraqi people and the peoples of the Gulf region and the entire [Arab] nation are still suffering.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Minister al-Sharif added: We had hoped that the problems between the United Nations and Iraq would have been resolved through dialogue rather than the use of force.

The information minister said that what leads to the Arab and Muslim peoples' surprise and denunciation over the resumption of military operations against Iraq is what is seen as the complete inability of the Security Council and the allies to implement resolutions against Israel, which deported more than 400 Palestinians from their homeland and still refuses to abide by UN resolutions calling for their repatriation. These people do not see any sign of practical action being taken to force Israel into implementing these resolutions. Likewise, the Arab and Muslim peoples are noting with surprise the inability of the United Nations and the allies to stop the massacres being committed by Serbs against Muslims in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and the fabrication of pretexts to defend them against sanctions stipulated for by the UN Charter.

Reaction of 'More Extremist Forces' Feared

JN1401103493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Jan 93 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Baseless Pretexts of the New Western Aggression"]

[Text] On the second anniversary of the sinful 30-state aggression against Iraq, the United States and its allies renewed their aggression, which has in fact never ceased over the past two years. They carried out their blatant military threats against a besieged and exhausted country under the pretext of respecting the Security Council's resolutions and maintaining the principles of international legitimacy.

Although Iraq, which is exposed to a continuous war that sometimes take the form of siege and starvation while other times assumes the shape of biting off part of Iraq or dividing it, has abided by unjust Security Council resolutions and implemented all the pledges dictated to it, but the Western alliance still views the continuation of Iraq, as a unified homeland and a people who refuse to bow down, as an outright failure of the objectives this alliance had when its destructive war on the Iraqi people was launched.

We would have accepted such unjust American logic, for example, had the Security Council resolutions against Israel been implemented by force or with the threat of force, or had the U.S.-led new world order risen in anger to stop the massacres in Bosnia-Hercegovina, which

continue while UN forces watch the Serbian aggression without lifting a finger and without their capitals feeling any pangs of guilt.

As we see the United States ignoring all crude violations of Security Council resolutions relating to Israel, it is our right to believe that the U.S. pretexts used to starve, divide, and then hit Iraq with the most modern weapons and military technology in the Western arsenal are merely baseless pretexts aimed at humiliating the Arabs and Muslims, depriving their regimes and capitals of any credibility, and insulting the feelings of this nation's sons.

The colonialist West, which is bringing back to mind the old image of the crusades, has closed its eyes to all the brutal human rights violations and blatant breaches of Security Council resolutions in Palestine, Lebanon, and Bosnia-Hercegovina. This West only sees Iraq, which has implemented more unjust resolutions than any other country in the world, and has abided by painful commitments to maintain its right to exist and preserve its sovereignty and national territorial integrity.

It will not take long for the conceited West, which is full of feelings of arrogant power, to realize that through its new aggression it will unleash more extremist forces in the Arab and Islamic worlds, including movements more violent than anything that has yet surfaced against the West and its interests in the region. This will turn the current facts upside down and herald in another even more chaotic stage in the Middle East and other remote areas.

Attack Said To Expose Western 'Hypocrisy'

JN1401075893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Legal Injustice"]

[Text] Two years after the United States and its allies first wreaked havoc and destruction on Baghdad, Western jetfighters returned to Iraq Wednesday evening to attack what they claim to be a potential threat to Western forces illegally roaming the skies of this war-ravaged country. Once again, the attack was launched in the name of United Nations Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy. And once again, it will fail to resolve the problems that have sown the seeds of conflict in the area.

By any serious standards, the strike exposes the hypocrisy with which the West is approaching regional conflicts of the new world order. Regardless of the message Washington sought to drive to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and of the pretext to justify it, the bombs thrown on Iraq yesterday served to remind a conflict-prone area of the double standards and selectiveness of the U.N. and its Western masters. No one could argue against the protection of civilians from oppression. But no one here believes that human considerations are the driving force behind the swiftness with which the U.S. and its allies deal with Iraq. If the West is so keen on not allowing injustice to stand, why then is it lamely reacting to the killings of armless civilians in Bosnia-Hercegovina, where Serb forces are violating a U.N.-imposed "no-fly zone", in defiance of the world community. It was only this month that Israel expelled hundreds of Palestinians from their homeland in violation of international law and Security Council resolutions. And while more than 400 Palestinians continue to suffer in a makeshift camp in frozen weather conditions, the world is doing little more than sweet-talk Israel into reversing what the U.N. considered an illegal action.

Iraqi civilians should be protected. But new raids, killings and destruction will not ensure them the safety haven they seek and indeed deserve. That will only subject them to more suffering and fear. While we renew our call for democratic reforms in Iraq and stress that Iraqi resources should be directed towards rebuilding and ensuring the well-being of the Iraqi people, we cannot but condemn the hostilities against Baghdad as an unjustified and illegal encroachment on the sovereignty of Iraq. If the West is interested in securing the safety of Iraqi citizens, it claims are suffering under the Iraqi regime, it will show concern for all Iraqi people: Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis. Those people need democracy and freedom. But they also need food and medicines they are directly or indirectly denied under the bite of sanctions that are no longer, at least legally, justified.

The strike against Iraq betrays obliquity, resonates with hypocrisy and bodes ill for a region that needs to hear the words of constructive dialogue and not the rattling of guns.

Cairo Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting Viewed

JN1301160693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Jan 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Cairo Meeting's Statement a Positive Step]

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers succeeded in adopting a serious position on the subject of deportees and made a positive step toward reviving the Arab solidarity. They unanimously agreed to ask the Security Council to implement its Resolution 799, which calls for the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homeland or take firm measures by punishing Israel, and this in itself is a great achievement.

Israel is still refusing to abide by the Security Council resolution and is defying the whole international community as if it is above the international laws and resolutions.

The response of the Arab foreign ministers to the position of the Palestinian deportees, who daily stress their determination to return to their homeland, is a political step in the right direction.

The ministers' solidarity with, and support for, the Lebanese position, which rejects receiving the deportees, serve Lebanon and the Palestine question as well as peace.

Rabin's government was wagering on the Arab differences, and thought that it can proceed with the mass deportation plot against the Lebanese will. But the steadfastness of Lebanon's position and the solidarity of all Arab countries with Lebanon have turned Rabin's calculations upside down and foiled his plans.

What is important is that the Arab foreign ministers have placed Rabin's government face to face with the United Nations. The United Nation should shoulder its full responsibilities toward the deportees case and secure their return to their homeland. Otherwise, it will bear the results of its failure and impotence.

The United Nations made two attempts, through Butrus Ghali's two envoys, to convince Rabin's government, but the two attempts failed due to Rabin's intransigence. The ball is now in the court of the Security Council which has a responsibility to deal with the Israeli rejection in a full responsible manner. This Arab consensus put the U.S. Administration and its credibility to a difficult test. It either accepts adoption of deterrent sanctions against Israel to alleviate its intransigence and to repatriate the deportees, or admits its failure and inability, and then to stop interference in resolving the regional crises through initiatives that it can not translate on the ground.

Nevertheless, the Arab foreign ministers have done well by deciding to leave their session open to follow up developments of the deportees issue until it is over, and to discuss results of this problem.

Defense Minister Comments on Air Strike on Iraq

NC1301205393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Interview with Muhsin Dallul, defense minister and acting information minister, by unidentified correspondents following a cabinet meeting in Beirut on 13 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr. Minister: [words indistinct] Iraq by the United States, what is your comment on this act?

[Dallul] I do not know what to tell you. We hope that Israel will be brought to account for its daily violation of UN and Security Council resolutions the same way they are bringing Iraq to account because it violated Security Council and UN resolutions. The question of the deportees is the best proof of this.

[Correspondent] Did the cabinet discuss this issue?

[Dallul] No; we were unaware of it. We just learned about it.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Dallul] It did not know about it. The cabinet was informed on the matter when it was over.

Deportee Calls For Attacks on U.S. Embassies, Interests

NC1401125893 Paris AFP in English 1217 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, Jan 14 (AFP) - A Muslim fundamentalist deportee called Thursday for attacks on U.S. embassies in retaliation over the allied raids on Iraq.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Shami, a member of the radical Islamic Jihad in Palestine, said there should be "attacks on U.S. embassies and American interests throughout the world."

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, a leading Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] figure, said it has become "very clear that the UN Security Council practises a policy of double standards."

"It uses force against Iraq and pampers Israel."

He greeted news that Israel had admitted expelling six more Palestinians by mistake, bringing the total to 16, by saying: "The deportation of all 415 Palestinians was a major mistake."

Israel deported the Palestinians on December 17 and has ignored Security Council Resolution 799 demanding their return.

They have been living here ever since in a makeshift camp in no man's land between Israeli and Lebanese lines.

Prime Minister Discusses Arab League Meeting, Deportees

NC1301153193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1331 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Beirut, 13 Jan (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has praised the results of the Cairo Arab foreign ministers meeting on the Palestinian deportees, describing them as a good and positive start that reveals unanimous Arab support for the Lebanese Government's stand on the deportees. He noted, however, that these results alone will not be enough to solve the problem. He added that convening an Arab summit at Lebanon's request has been put off for the moment.

In an exclusive statement to the MENA correspondent in Beirut, al-Hariri stressed that the Lebanese Government will remain in close contact with the United Nations and all the fraternal and friendly states, including the United States and the EC countries, to try to secure the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for the return of the deportees, swiftly lay down an executive mechanism and a specific deadline in accordance with the resolutions of international legality, and apply Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

He added that Lebanon's diplomatic activity, in coordination with the Arab League and Arab and international parties, will be highly intensified in the immediate future to follow up the implementation of the Arab foreign ministers resolutions. He added that his contacts with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali and a number of officials in major world capitals revealed full understanding of Lebanon's position regarding the deportees. Al-Hariri denied that any countries are pressuring Lebanon over its stand on the deportees, but he added that some countries are placing pressure under the disguise of humanitarian considerations. He added: We have emphasized to these quarters our clear and frank position, which proceeds from the fact that we were not responsible for creating the conditions that the deportees are facing and that Israel must bear responsibility for this action. Keep in mind, however, that we are concerned about the deportees, who are living on occupied Lebanese territory.

Asked about the next step if current actions prove fruitless, al- Hariri said that the United Nations is the party concerned with adopting practical steps to implement the resolution. We will, he added, do all we can diplomatically to mobilize world pressure to secure the implementation of this resolution. He added that setting a deadline for putting this resolution into effect depends on the outcome of these Arab and international efforts and contacts toward solving the problem.

Asked if the Lebanese Government will permit a U.S. human rights organization, known as Middle East Watch, to visit the Palestinian deportees via the Marj al-Zuhur crossing point on Lebanese territory, al-Hariri said: This organization has not asked to visit the deportees; we will

study such a request in the context of the circumstances and the official declared Lebanese position.

Al-Hariri said that the Lebanese Government had not complied with Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo's wish to visit the deportees through Lebanese territory during his visit to Beirut yesterday. He added that the Italian minister demonstrated understanding of the Lebanese position.

Buwayz' 'Astonishment' at Media Views of League Meeting

NC1301135893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz voiced astonishment at unrealistic interpretations of the results of the Arab League Council meeting. He announced: It is a curious thing to interpret Arab League resolutions in different ways. Lebanon made four demands: urging the UN Security Council to draw up a mechanism to implement Resolution 799; specifying a deadline for implementation; asking international humanitarian organizations to provide relief aid to the deportees via the occupied Palestinian territories; and holding an Arab summit. The Arab League Council adopted three of the proposals and postponed the summit issue. So the resolutions clearly reflect the Lebanese demands.

Buwayz expressed surprise at the unrealistic interpretations of the resolutions by some media.

Birri Discusses South, Deportees, Summit With al-Hirawi

NC1301154893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri held their regular weekly meeting at the Presidential Office today and discussed the deportees, the Arab League Council resolutions, and other developments.

Birri commented: My discussions with President al-Hirawi dealt particularly with my very imminent visit to Tehran and the issues I should discuss there for the good of the two countries. We also viewed the situation in the south and the necessary deployment of Lebanese forces in UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] area to bolster the Lebanese position. This is a decisive and positive matter, particularly in light of the Arabs' backtracking and their negative attitudes regarding the unjustly deported Palestinians.

Asked about the Arab League's disregard of Lebanon's demand for an Arab summit, Birri said the action was designed to avoid the necessity of adopting a united Arab stand. He announced: Regrettably, we are not accustomed to adopting a united stand.

Commenting on the Italian stand, Birri said: The Italian Government's position is good and shows understanding of the Lebanese Government's position. Although many parties adopt understanding positions, we want the biased treatment of countries in connection with international laws and at the UN Security Council to end.

Birri urged the state to complete making the administrative appointments quickly. He said the legislative authority has the right to demand that this affair be completed promptly for the good of the country.

Army Security Forces Discover Weapons Cache, Arrest One

NC1201155293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Lebanese Army security forces on 11 January 1993 raided an arms depot in the town of Barja in the al-Kharrub region. They seized a large amount of ammunition and different types of weapons. The entire load was estimated at two truckloads. They found the following: 23 rifles and light-caliber machine-guns; four medium and heavy-caliber weapons; four RPG's and LAW launchers; one 81-mm mortar; 164 mortars and detonators; 35 hand-grenades; 32 RPG's; 2,320 rounds of 14.5-mm ammunition; 15,835 rounds of 12.7-mm ammunition; 6,978 rounds of various types of ammunition; eight binoculars and silencers; six antivehicle and personnel mines; five pistols; and magazines, pouches, equipment to clean the weapons, and military attire.

The owner of the warehouse, Muhammad Amin Su'ayfan, was arrested for interrogation.

Army Confiscates Arms, Ammunition in North

NC1301124293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Elements of the intelligence branch of the Northern Military Command confiscated arms and ammunition in al-Dinniyah area, including: a missile launcher with 15 Russian-made missiles; 90 electric detonators; four antivehicle mines; six rocket head boxes; and a large quantity of 5.7-mm, 12.7-mm, 7.2-mm, and 20-mm ammunition.

Explosion Under Car Causes Damage in Beirut

NC1301092793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] An explosive charge went off under a Chevrolet car belonging to Emile Abu-'Al that was parked near Antilyas bridge. A security source said the charge contained 1 kg of TNT. The explosion caused material damage.

'National Resistance' Detonates Charge Near Israeli Patrol

NC1401123893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The national resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge this morning near an Israeli occupation forces' patrol on the 'Alman road inside the occupied border strip.

Militia Patrol Attacked; Israeli Shelling Reported

NC1401105493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] According to reports from the south, Israeli artillery shelled the al-Litani River and extended the shelling to the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah.

The reports also said that resistance men this morning attacked a Lahd militia patrol as it was passing through the al-Shumariyah area. The attack developed into a clash between the patrol and resistance men.

Communist Party Assails Allies' Raid on Iraq

NC1401124393 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party has said that the raid launched by the U.S.-led Western alliance against Iraq proves that the policy of aggression is continuing. A single standard—namely, the U.S. standard—is being used in relation to the international resolutions with a view toward tightening imperialist control over the world and the Arab countries in particular.

The Communist Party's Political Bureau noted the disregard by Washington and its allies of resolutions pertaining to Arab rights, the latest being Security Council Resolution 799. The bureau criticized the serious, negative situations in the Arab arena and the irresponsible handling of pan-Arab issues. It called for ending this state of affairs by creating genuine Arab solidarity to defend Arab rights and safeguard the independence, territorial integrity, and national interests of the Arab countries.

'Official Source' Denies BBC Report of Eagleburger Visit

JN1401060693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] An official source yesterday made the following statement:

The BBC reported in its Arabic newscast last night that U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger was in Syria yesterday, Wednesday. This report is not true; it did not happen, neither today nor on any other previous day. No American official, on any level, has visited Syria this year or during the last months of the past year.

Reportage on Official Visit of Egypt's Mubarak

Holds Meetings With al-Asad

JN1301142393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at 1100 today.

President Hafiz al-Asad led the party that received Mubarak at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

The two presidents held a meeting at the presidential palace. The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by the delegation accompanying President Mubarak and on the Syrian side by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman, and Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade.

This expanded meeting was followed by a closed meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Discusses Arab Situation With al-Asad

JN1301194693 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus at 1100 today.

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This expanded meeting was followed by a closed meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Both Syrian and Egyptian delegations, which held a separate meeting, joined the two presidents at 1415 today. Talks dealt with the Arab situation, developments in the Arab arena, including the peace process and Israeli stands and practices which contradict this process, as well as the Gulf situation and bilateral relations.

After concluding his visit, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Damascus this evening.

President Hafiz al-Asad led the party that bid farewell to Mubarak at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with Syrian and Egyptian reporters in the VIP lounge at Damascus International Airport. Both Presidents answered questions posed to them by reporters on the regional situation and developments.

The president held a luncheon in the honor of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Presidents Hold News Conference

NC1401071893 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 2008 GMT 13 Jan 93

[News conference by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad with unidentified correspondents in Damascus on 13 January—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Could you shed some light on some of the issues you discussed with President Hafiz al-Asad? And how do you view the solution of the problem of the Palestinian deportees and Israel's continuing indifference to the resolutions of international legitimacy?

[Mubarak] First, Egyptian-Syrian relations are deep-rooted. They do not concern only the Egyptian or Syrian people; I believe they interest the entire Arab people. Syria and Egypt have always had long-standing distinctive relations. Even brothers sometimes have their differences, but this does not preclude continuous contacts, consultations, and cooperation in the various fields between Egypt and Syria. My meeting today with brother President Hafiz al-Asad continues the meetings we began long ago, even those that began long before the October war. We exchange views; we talked about the deportees, Iraq, and all the different issues plus bilateral cooperation in the various fields. This is a brief account of what we discussed.

As for the deportees, cooperating with President Hafiz, we all coordinate and work for an honorable solution of this problem to avoid obstructing the peace negotiations. I sincerely hope we can reach a solution before 20 February, the proposed date for resuming negotiations. I appeal to Israel to help in this connection so that the

peace negotiations can continue and we can reach a final solution of a problem that has persisted for over 30 years.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, how do you view the situation in Iraq?

[Mubarak] Actually the situation is sad and regrettable. Frankly, we do not know the entire truth about these recent events, but we hope that Iraq, the partition of which we strongly oppose and a country for whose territorial integrity we call in all international forums, we do not want Iraq divided into three sections, as that would contradict Arab national security considerations-....[sentence as heard] We call for adherence to international legitimacy and for the implementation of UN resolutions. The countries that impose these conditions [on Iraq] should deal with other issues in the same way.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, on the Damascus Declaration. At earlier meetings you proposed a summit meeting among the signatories. How do you view prospects for this summit now and how do you view progress toward implementing the Declaration?

[Mubarak] The Declaration interests the countries concerned in the first place; the Gulf countries alone can decide whether they want the declaration or not. They are responsible for their own defensive plan. As for Syria and Egypt, they are two states committed to the [Arab] Joint Defense Pact. They have not hesitated to assist in any regional catastrophe. I think the best example of that is events during the Gulf war.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the Iraqi escalation now and the repeated aggression against Kuwaiti territory coincide with the issue of the Palestinian deportees. Do you believe there is a link between these two issues?

[Al-Asad] I have no reason to link the two issues. I believe it is more likely they are not interconnected. Each has its own characteristics and we should view them within this context.

On what we read about the [Iraqi] operations, I do not have reliable information. We read in the media that some Iraqi patrols or some Iraqi civilians, as they call them, are entering Kuwait. In Iraq they say they are civilians who stayed within Iraqi territory and removed weapons, ammunition, and the like. If this harms Kuwait or is a new shock for the Kuwaitis, this is a grave mistake that should not be made. If it is made, it should not be repeated. If the issue is something else, the judgment would be something else.

As for the deportees, and as brother President Husni Mubarak said, this was at the heart of our talks. We are eager and committed to solving this problem. Undoubtedly, Israel must solve this problem, because it created it. This is important for the peace process—I mean finding the solution is important for the peace process. As President Husni Mubarak said, we are eager to see this solution very soon.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, regarding the escalation on the border, according to statements by the Iraqis, they say that people from there fetched equipment and the like. This is escalation and clashes with international legitimacy. Is this in the interest of the Arab causes, the peace negotiations, or in that of reaching a settlement? Or does it impede this?

[Al-Asad] We are both interested in this from an important angle, that of a clash between one Arab and another. We must avoid this, as every Arab should. This is the mistake and the tribulation we experienced, namely that one Arab country committed aggression against another. If the matter involves acts of provocations on Iraq's side toward Kuwait, this would be a grave mistake, a mistake that—as I said earlier—should not be made. If it is made, it should not be repeated. As for the issue of international legitimacy, it is important to us all. When this expression comes up, we always remember that this legitimacy is not a morally upright one. We want international legitimacy to be applied everywhere, not selectively in one place. We want it to be applied to all, not to some. We want a genuine international legitimacy that brings peace to this world.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, there have been many reports of tangible progress in the bilateral talks between Israel and Syria. It has been said that the idea of full peace in return for all territory has been advanced and that there is some understanding. To what extent is this true? How do you estimate progress? Do you believe the peace process will maintain its momentum under the new U.S. Administration despite statements that may have worried our Arab world?

[Al-Asad] On the bilateral talks and in light of reports presented to us by the Syrian delegation, we felt no meaningful progress. Consequently, we can say no progress was made. But this did not lead us to a point where we believed the peace process was over or deadlocked. The peace discussions could continue until we reach deadlock or an open road to peace in the true sense of the word.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Husni Mubarak, let me ask about your relations with Iran, which have recently been deteriorating. Are there any prospects for reconciliation between the two countries?

[Mubarak] I have said in many statements—most recently in al- Ghardagah, as far as I remember—that I wish Egypt's relations with all nations to be good and based on noninterference in domestic affairs. This is my principle. My relations with all countries are very good; my relations with Asian and African countries are in the best shape. I would have wished my relations with Iran to be in their best shape. We harbor no evil against Iran; the Iranians should be asked about their practices. If they claim there are conflicting ideas in Egypt, we say this is not true; there are different methods of expression. But if

Iran acknowledges noninterference in domestic affairs—we do not interfere in others' domestic affairs—I do not object to reconciliation. But if meddling in internal affairs continues, we can end it.

You must have heard the Iranian statements. They are public. I do not want to go into detail because I am still willing to establish good relations with Iran. If I discuss details, things will be complicated. I hope the Iranians and the Iranian leadership appreciate things. I am ready to turn over a new leaf if Iran proves to have good intentions.

[Correspondent] His Excellency President al-Asad is undertaking a reconciliatory or settlement role between Egypt and Iran. President Mubarak is playing the same role to maintain the peace process. What progress has been achieved on both tracks?

[Mubarak] [words indistinct] about progress in the peace process and not just me. [laughs]

[Al-Asad] We do not believe Egypt is a mediator in the peace process; Egypt is a basic pillar of the Arab nation. It cannot work or act outside the boundaries of its Arab status and role. We exchange views, cooperate, consult, and coordinate on all our issues, even domestic, Syrian and Egyptian alike. Our individual identification cards that distinguish between us do not embody the historic and emotional reality or the common destiny that links us as two people, rather, as one people. We always try to make progress in the various fields or in the fields you asked about. I believe there is hope for progress. If not, we would have stopped trying.

As for Iran, we in Egypt and Syria care for Iran as an important Islamic state. President Mubarak has often said he wants to establish good relations with Iran, as long as nobody meddles in either country's internal affairs. As we have heard, Iran also adopts that concept; we have heard them say so. It is in our interest as Arabs to consolidate our relations with Islamic countries, those geographically near or far from us. This is the common view of both countries; my brother Husni Mubarak and I share it. In this light, I repeat that we hope for the best. Our joint interests and those of the other Islamic countries, including Iran, require this.

[Correspondent] I would like to ask a question about this point. Is there a step in this direction in terms of Syria's efforts to persuade Iran not to interfere in Egypt's internal affairs? We in Egypt do not meddle in Iran's affairs. The fact is that Iran meddles. There is evidence that Iran is financing certain activities or something of that sort. This means meddling in Egypt's affairs. Is Syria taking a specific step, thanks to its relations with Egypt and Iran, to bring views closer and convince the Iranian side of what President Mubarak said?

[Al-Asad] The Iranians share with us and our brothers in Egypt the desire to establish good relations. We hope things will proceed for the better. As we say, hope for the best and you will get it.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the Arab countries are being asked to sign the treaty banning chemical weapons. In addition to its nuclear arsenal, Israel refuses to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. What is Syria's position on this issue and was it discussed with President Mubarak today?

[Al-Asad] We have discussed this issue more than once. We support removing all weapons of mass destruction from this region, but this is not being propounded now. What is being propounded is tackling the issue of chemical weapons. We believe that weapons of mass destruction....[Al-Asad changes thought] When this expression is used, the first thing that comes to mind is the nuclear weapon, because it is the most dangerous in the arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. We cannot agree to something meant for the Arabs alone. We want the complete destruction of weapons of mass destruction, starting with nuclear weapons and ending with the other weapons that are so labelled. We do not believe that what is being propounded is fair; it appears to be very unjust. Sometimes we have doubts—let me say I have doubts—that the Arabs alone are those who are meant, even though the Arabs, as far as I know, do not manufacture this weapon. Some Arab countries do have the ability to manufacture it. This is no secret. But the plan aims to deprive the Arabs of the ability to have any of these weapons on our territories or even to make them. It is really very odd to have the issue of chemical weapons raised without raising that of nuclear weapons. When the United States, Russia, and other countries are working to reduce their nuclear weapons, no one speaks about Israel's nuclear weapons. These countries know this and their press write about it; two days ago an American paper reported Israel's classification as the fifth nuclear country in the world, possessing several nuclear warheads, between 50 and 200. They also speak of the accuracy of delivering these weapons or nuclear heads. So the Arabs—while seeking peace, which the world now knows—must not throw down all their cards, not even the most basic weapon with which they defend themselves. World public opinion, about which we always, or quite often, speak, should support our stand, not that of the others.

[Correspondent] President Mubarak, how do you view this issue, that of limiting mass destruction and chemical weapons?

[Mubarak] If you remember, and if you followed up the news, I initiated that proposal from Baghdad: to declare our region free from mass destruction weapons. I adopted that approach. As brother President Hafiz al-Asad said, I believe nuclear weapons were more destructive for people than were chemical weapons, although we do not and will not produce chemical weapons. To sign a treaty on chemical weapons and ignore nuclear weapons—although some believe there is no need to link the two—will render us unable to face our people; we cannot tell them we signed a treaty banning chemical weapons and overlooked nuclear weapons. This issue is discussed publicly by institutions, parties, organizations, bodies,

and trade unions in our country. Having achieved that much interest, I cannot go against public opinion and say I agree with a treaty on chemical weapons but not on nuclear weapons. What would I say to the public? One citizen told me nuclear weapons are more lethal than chemical. We agree to [ban] mass destruction weapons collectively. We must all cooperate to eliminate mass destruction weapons—chemical and nuclear—because this is in the interest of all the people. It would not make sense if I signed a treaty on chemical weapons and left out nuclear weapons, when nuclear weapons are more dreadful than chemical, or let a state like Israel possess nuclear weapons and, because of that, sign a treaty on chemical weapons alone. All of us, including Israel, are in the same boat. If this was the case, everybody would try to have nuclear weapons. Iraq obtained nuclear weapons and nobody knew. Will we get involved in nuclear battles? This involves real danger for the people. These [nuclear] weapons pose an extensive threat for citizens, not only in one region, but in the entire Arab world as well as outside it. The impacts can persist for years. You heard about Chernobyl and other incidents; their impact remains dreadful. We want to avoid this dangerous and destructive weapon.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, I would like to ask a question about this point [words indistinct].

[Mubarak] If he does not want to agree, this is his own problem. But we have a far-sighted vision and strategy. We say no. We initiated talk about mass destruction weapons; we called for freeing our region of these weapons. How can I say that, initiate discussion of the issue, get public opinion involved, and then say we will forget nuclear weapons and sign a treaty on chemical weapons alone? I could not face the public.

Egypt's al-Sharif Comments on Talks

JN1301205993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the summit meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak held in Damascus today comes within the framework of coordination and consultation between the two Arab leaders on international and regional issues. He added: The two presidents discussed various aspects of bilateral cooperation and agreed to reinforce and give momentum to this cooperation.

Al-Sharif said that the two presidents discussed important Arab issues, ahead of which are the issue of achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, the issue of Palestinian deportees, and the issue of making the Middle East region an area free of weapons of mass destruction in order to achieve regional cooperation and security and to reinforce peace opportunities.

He said that during the expanded three-hour meeting, chaired by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak, the two sides reviewed policies, on which they agreed to coordinate stands politically, economically, and technically and on an international, Arab, and bilateral level.

Al-Sharif noted that the meeting also discussed a number of issues which will be considered by the joint higher ministerial committee in its upcoming meeting in Cairo. Al-Sharif added that Egypt and Syria decided they will not sign the agreement on chemical weapons until the Middle East arms control becomes balanced and without exception, especially in light of Israeli nuclear armament.

Information Minister Comments on Talks

NC1301145993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1252 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Damascus, 13 Jan (MENA)—Following their private meeting of approximately two hours, President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad conferred with members of the Egyptian and Syrian delegations. The meeting was attended by members of the Egyptian delegation accompanying President Mubarak and by Syrians Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Economy Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, and Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the two sides discussed areas of political, economic, and information cooperation between the two countries and preparations for the meeting in Cairo of the higher joint committee cochaired by the two countries' prime ministers. In the political domain, the two sides discussed ways to coordinate their stands on the peace talks in light of the analysis and study of the adverse implications of the deportees' issue on the peace process and the ongoing contacts on this. They also examined international, regional, and Arab issues. The two sides exchanged views on the Damascus Declaration. A meeting of the finance and economy ministers of Declaration member states is due to be held in Doha on 31 January, while a meeting of foreign ministers of the member states is due to be held in Abu Dhabi after Ramadan [in April].

On economic relations, al-Sharif said the two sides discussed coordination in the field of cooperation with international and regional institutions to finance development projects in both countries. They also discussed topics relating to economic and political cooperation between the two countries.

In the field of information, the two sides discussed ways to develop and expand areas of information cooperation between the two countries on the international and Arab levels so as to better serve Arab causes and the unity of ranks and to consolidate Arab solidarity.

AL-THAWRAH on Mubarak's 'Urgent Mission'

JN1401082593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0555 GMT 14 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Urgent Mission," AL-THAWRAH writes about the importance of yesterday's summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and [Egypt's] Muhammad Husni Mubarak. AL-THAWRAH says: This summit is extraordinary despite the continuous meetings, consultations, and coordination between Syria and Egypt during various serious and delicate circumstances and developments.

AL-THAWRAH adds: As with every summit, and in accordance with Syria's strategic pan-Arab constants, the objective was to reinforce the Arab position in confronting the challenges of the peace process, which stands at a serious and delicate turning point. The objective was also to coordinate stands and strengthen the march of common Arab action to firmly confront the Zionist policy of aggression and expansion threatening the entire nation—land, existence, and resources.

The paper says that this summit renews the Arab masses' hope to reinforce their steadfastness, mobilize their potential, and save their capabilities in the service of the basic and major conflict between the Arab nation and the Zionist enemy, who has proven, through his acts, that he does not truly seek peace with the Arabs. The enemy wants to impose capitulation and subjugation on the Arabs, steal their resources, devour their rights, and seize their land, water, and oil.

NPF Central Command Meets, Discusses Political Issues

JN1201195993 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting at 1900 today under the chairmanship of Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and NPF deputy chairman. The command heard a comprehensive political report from Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in which he tackled a number of important issues pertaining to the current political situation and the extensive activity Syria has conducted over the past period to clear the Arab air, reinforce Arab solidarity, achieve a unity of the Arab position in the face of challenges against the Arab nation, and deal with international changes in a manner guaranteeing the nation's interests and safeguarding its rights from all dangers.

The NPF Central Command reviewed the overall political situation and the latest developments in the region and the world at large. It then discussed a number of issues pertaining to this situation and these developments. It also focused on the peace process and the difficulties facing it as a result of Israel's position, which is based on maneuvers and attempts to gain time and adhere to intransigent positions, which prevent any progress toward a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy and UN resolutions, especially those related to withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and recognizing the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate national rights.

The command also discussed the issue of the Palestinians deported from their homeland and the ways the Israeli Government is dealing with this issue, which expresses the reality of the Israeli policy that conflicts with UN resolutions and the principles of international law. The Central Command highly praised the wise and courageous policy being pursued by Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, who has repeatedly stressed that we adhere to pan-Arab principles, to the principles in which we believe, and to our struggle to establish a just and comprehensive peace that will regain the land, safeguard rights, and preserve national and pan-Arab dignity.

Afghanistan

Uzbek Chief Calls For Power Share in Government

BK1401003493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1744 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, Jan 13 (AFP)—Powerful Uzbek general, Abdol Rashid Dostam, said Wednesday [13 January] that he would withdraw support for the Afghan government unless President Borhanoddin Rabbani offers his movement a share of power within a month.

Speaking to foreign journalists near here, Dostam said that the "national northern movement," which he leads and which controls six northern Afghan provinces, wanted official recognition from Kabul and representation in the next government to be formed by Rabbani.

"If our proposals are rejected, we will move onto the sidelines. We will not attack (the government) but we will not defend them either. We will no longer obey their directives," Dostam said.

Dostam's Uzbek militia are seen as a providing crucial support for the government and their withdrawal could upset the balance of power in Afghanistan given the continued threat to the government posed by the forces of radical Mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar.

"It will be very difficult for the government to hold Kabul without our forces," Dostam said.

It was the defection of Dostam's forces—once allied to the former communist regime in Kabul—to the Mojahedin cause, that brought about the fall of former Afghan president Najibollah in April last year.

The communist regime was replaced by an Afghan leadership council grouping the major Mojahedin factions. Dostam has never been represented on the council.

Day of Mourning Declared for Vice President

LD1301193293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Decree by the "Islamic Republican State of Afghanistan;" issued in Kabul on 13 January—read by announcer]

[Text] Because of the tragic death of Mowlawi Mir Hamza, vice president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, mojahed brother and hero of the trenches of jihad, tomorrow—Thursday, Jadi 24 1371 [14 January]—has been declared a day of national mourning throughout the country. Therefore the state flags of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, at home and abroad in Afghanistan's diplomatic missions, will be flying half mast.

[Signed] Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed professor.

Leaders Attend Funeral

LD1301233393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, took part this afternoon in the funeral of esteemed Mowlawi Mir Hamza, vice president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. The body of esteemed Mowlawi Mir Hamza was brought today to Kabul from Peshawar. After the funeral service, his body was buried at the bottom of a hill in Khairkhana Mana.

A BAKHTAR news agency correspondent reports that the funeral was attended by esteemed Professor Abdorrub Rasul Sayyaf; esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, defense minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; the acting president and deputy presidents of the Supreme Court; esteemed Mowlawi Jalilullah Mowlawizada Herawi; Mohammad Siddique Chakri, minister of information and culture and secretary of the Council of Ministers; Alhaj Rahmatullah Wahedyar, minister of refugee affairs; Mohammad Yaqub La'li, minister of mines and industries; Hojjatol ol-Eslam Sayd Mohammad 'Ali Javid; Sayd Abdol Hadi Hadi, minister of agriculture; Abdol Hafez Beg, minister of city and house construction; Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs; Kabul Mayor Fazl Karim Aymaq; Fahim, general head of state security; Sakhi Dad (?Fayez), general head of the Afghan Red Crescent Society; Hojjat ol-Eslam Gholam Sakhi Mesbah, cultural deputy to the minister of culture and information; heads of government departments and high ranking officials; generals and officers of the armed forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; ulema, elders, and jehadi commanders; leadership delegations of social organizations; employees of the president's office; some members of the jehadi units; and a large number of Mowlawi Hamza's friends and relatives.

Esteemed Alhaj Mohammad Siddique Chakri spoke during Mowlawi Mir Hamza's funeral. He spoke of Mowlawi Mir Hamza's good nature and character, and his past struggle for the success of the holy jihad of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. He spoke highly of his contribution to the success of the jihad and to the cause of Islam. He then asked esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, to speak about the loss of esteemed Mowlawi Mir Hamza.

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani spoke about the personality of Mowlawi Mir Hamza and said [announcer read]: Today we have lost an earnest son of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. We are burying today an outstanding personality who devoted all his beloved life to the cause and honor of the banner of Islam with faith and honesty. One of his ambitions and prayers was to be martyred together with other martyrs of the beloved country fighting for the defense of Islam and the liberation of the homeland against the occupation of our country by the Red Army of the former Soviet Union. Perhaps Almighty God heeded his prayer, because he

was a witness to the success of the Islamic revolution and the jihad of the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani added: Mowlawi Mir Hamza was pained to see the difficulties and problems our country is facing since the formation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. He was constantly thinking of finding solutions to these difficulties, and he did much hard work in this respect, but Almighty God decided to take his soul so that he can achieve his lofty aspiration. Although he is not with us today, his aspiration will always be with us. May Almighty God bless his soul. We will always remember him.

Then Prof. Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf made a speech shedding light on his good struggle and services. He asked Almighty God's forgiveness for him, and expressed sympathy with his family.

A short biography of the late Mowlawi Mir Hamza was then read by esteemed Alhaj Mohammad Siddique Chakri. At end of funeral ceremony esteemed Mowlawi Sadeqi said a prayer.

Mowlawi Mir Hamza's body was brought to Kabul from Peshawar today at 1100 by special plane and was taken to the Delkosha palace of the presidency with due ceremony, escorted by the ceremonial unit of the Presidential Guards of Afghanistan. Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, esteemed Professor Abdorrab Rasul Sayaf, the acting president of the Supreme Court and his assistants, ministers, and others paid their respects to his body.

Esteemed Mir Hamza, vice president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, died on 12 January 1993 at the age of 43 [passage indistinct].

The late Mowlawi Mir Hamza, son of Mullah Goljan, was born in 1949-50 [the Afghan year 1328] at Kafshan village in Ghorband District, Parwan. He received primary education at his birthplace, and started his secondary education at Takharestan seminary in Kondoz. He enrolled at the Shari'ah Faculty of Kabul University in 1973, and graduated from the faculty in 1976. He was put under surveillance by the government of the day for his struggle against infidelity and atheism, and was forced to take refuge in Pakistan. He obtained his master's degree from the Islamic University of Punjab. Then he started teaching at the University of Dawat al-Jihad.

The late Mowlawi Mir Hamza held various important positions during the time of his refuge and jihad. As a great jihadi personality, he rendered valuable services in propagating Islamic education and in serving the jihad of the Islamic nation of Afghanistan. After the victory of the Islamic revolution, he was appointed as vice president. He was married and has two daughters and two sons.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent adds that the presidential office of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has started receiving messages of condolence from ministers of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; from leaders of state departments and of the armed forces; from representatives of the people in parliament, state enterprises, establishments, and banks; from jehadi commanders, scientific and cultural personalities, and a large number of our compatriots. The messages contain wishes for his pardon by Almighty God and the granting of strength to his relatives.

Bangladesh

Allegation About Summit Postponement Rejected

BK1301155493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman has reaffirmed that Bangladesh did everything to ensure that the seventh SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit be held and categorically rejected any suggestion or allegation either direct or implicit that the summit was postponed due to the situation in Bangladesh. Briefing newsmen in Dhaka today he said Bangladesh rejects various allegations made directly or implicitly that the postponement was due to the situation in Bangladesh. He said that Bangladesh has done everything to ensure that the summit be held first on the original schedule and then on the rescheduled date, consistently striving to promote cooperation among the member countries on the issues that unite them. The foreign secretary said that on both occasions, the summit had to be postponed because of the inability of the Indian prime minister to attend because of internal compulsions of India.

Islamic Development Bank Grants $20 Million Loan

BK1301132593 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The Islamic Development Bank [IDB] has approved a $20 million loan for Bangladesh. The approval was given at a meeting of the bank's board of executive directors in Jeddah yesterday. The meeting was presided over by IDB President Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali. The loan will be utilized for importing fertilizers from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and for rural electrification.

1,589 Burmese Refugees Repatriated 8 Jan

BK0901022693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Another batch of 1,589 Rohingya refugees went back to their home in Burma yesterday. The refugees have been repatriated from Rangikhali, Nayapara, and Jumarpara transit camps at Teknaf. With this, a total number of 10,145 Rohingya refugees have so far been repatriated to their homeland in Burma. About 17,000 refugees are awaiting repatriation in three transit camps.

The number of refugees who are willing to go back to their homeland are increasing gradually, day by day.

2,200 Return 11 Jan

BK1101150393 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Another batch of 2,200 Rohingya refugees returned to their home in Burma this morning. They left for their homeland from Nayapara, Rangikhali, and Jumapara transit camps. A Burmese Government official received them at the Taninchong, (Natua), and (Timpu) transit camps. With this, a total of 12,345 refugees returned to their homeland. Another 15,000 refugees are awaiting repatriation at various transit camps.

2,251 Return 13 Jan

BK1401022093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Two thousand two hundred and fifty-one Rohingya refugees voluntarily went back to their homeland in Myanmar [Burma] through Rangikhali, Nayapara, and Jumapara transit camps in Teknaf yesterday. Official sources said yesterday's figure was the highest since the repatriation started. With this, the total number of repatriated now stands at 14,551. More than 18,000 refugees are awaiting voluntary repatriation in the three transit camps.

India

Spokesman Hopes Gulf Escalation Will Be Avoided

BK1401124693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] India today expressed the hope that the dangerous escalations following U.S.-led bombing on Iraq will be avoided. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that India wants strict adherence to the terms of the cease-fire after the recent Gulf conflict. Reacting to the new developments, he said India also wants full recognition and observance of the sovereignty, integrity, and international legitimacy of all the states in the Gulf region.

'Distinct Improvement' in Bombay Situation Noted

BK1301162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] There was a distinct improvement in the situation in Bombay today with no major incident of mob violence reported from anywhere. Consequent upon the improvement in the situation, suburban train services have been increased. Local buses are also plying on more routes. The civil authorities and the army are taking stringent steps to bring the situation under control. The official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that the prime minister is constantly reviewing the situation. He spoke to the newly appointed state governor, Dr. P.C. Alexander, and the general officer commanding in chief, Southern Command, Lieutenant General Kalkat, last night.

The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, who is in Bombay, is also keeping Mr. Narasimha Rao apprised of the situation and the steps taken to bring the situation under control. The prime minister told a film delegation, which met him in New Delhi today, regarding the present situation in Bombay that he will be visiting the city soon and will talk to the state government and the affected people.

Gujarat government has decided to ask the license holders of firearms in nine sensitive areas of Ahmedabad city to deposit their arms and licenses at the nearest police station. Talking to newsmen after a cabinet meeting in Gandhinagar this evening, the chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, said that seven special police squads have been constituted to carry out combing operations in trouble-torn areas. Comprehensive checking will be done at all entry points in the city to apprehend miscreants. The chief minister reaffirmed his government's decision to repair the religious places damaged during the recent riots. The work has already started, he said.

The overall situation in Ahmedabad remained peaceful today. People came out in large numbers in Basna, Paldi, and Fatehpura areas during the seven-hour curfew relaxation. Police and army are patrolling the affected areas as a precaution.

The Congress-I has appealed to the people to set aside personal and party considerations and help the authorities in restoring normalcy in the riot-torn areas. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newspersons in New Delhi today that several incidents in the past few days have shown that the common man is secular by instinct.

He said the Maharashtra government should investigate reports of foreign involvement in the Bombay violence.

Reacting to Mr. Sunil Dutt's decision to resign his Lok Sabha seat, the spokesman said that Mr. Dutt has embarrassed the party at a time of crisis.

The leaders of the National Front and the left front met in New Delhi today and reviewed the situation in Bombay and Ahmedabad. After the meeting, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, said they are anguished at the failure of the Center and the state government in taking effective steps to deal with the situation. The leaders said that change of chief ministers in Maharashtra and Gujarat would have helped in restoring the people's faith in the administration. Besides Mr. Chatterjee, others who attended the meeting included Mr. Harkishen Singh

Surjeet, CPI-M; Mr. Chaturanand Mishra, CPI; and Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, Janata Dal.

Around 70 eminent personalities, including academicians, historians, and civil rights activists, have urged the government to immediately restore peace in Bombay and Ahmedabad. In a joint statement issued in New Delhi today, they said no society can continue to function in a civilized manner unless communal hatred and perversity as seen in Surat, Bombay, and Ahmedabad are put down with a firm hand. The signatories to the statement include Dr. Romila Thapar, Mr. Nikhil Chakraborty, Mr. Justice Rajinder Sachchar, Mr. Bhisham Sahni, Mr. Habib Tanvir, Mr. Kuldeep Nayyar, Professor Mushirul Hassan, Miss Indrani Rahman, Dr. Arun Ghosh, and Prof. Rajni Kothari.

Bombay 'Limping Back to Normal,' Gujarat Peaceful

BK1401095293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The situation in Bombay city and its suburbs is slowly limping back to normal. The curfew has been lifted in 10 police circles, while six-hour relaxation was given from 0600 this morning to the riot-affected areas of Dongri, Paidhuni, Nagpara, B.B. Road in south Bombay, Dharvi in central Bombay, Yogeshwari in northwest, and Ghatkopar and Deonar in northeast Bombay. A total of 2,911 people have so far been arrested on specific charges, while more than 3,000 preventive arrests have been made. The central and western railways' local trains are running normally. Buses are also on the roads. The attendance in the offices has substantially improved.

In Gujarat, the overall situation in Ahmedabad is peaceful, barring two stray incidents of stabbing today. Quoting official sources, our Ahmedabad correspondent reports that no untoward incident has been reported from Paldi, Basna, and Fatehpura areas. Elaborate security arrangements have been made on the occasion of Makar Shankranti [Hindu festival].

'Increased Security' at Proposed Shrine in Amritsar

BK1301160693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1555 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Amritsar, India, Jan 13 (AFP)—Authorities Wednesday [13 January] increased security at the site of a proposed Hindu temple here as tension mounted over the location of the planned shrine next to Sikhdom's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple.

The move by the government of the state of Punjab, which administers Amritsar, came amid strong statements from Sikh religious and other party leaders against the plan put forward by a specially launched local Hindu panel.

The Praachin Hindu Mata Shri Vaishno Devi Ji Mandir committee, or the committee for the Ancient Shrine of Shri Vaishno Devi, a Hindu Goddess, circulated a model plan of the proposed temple here recently.

The small single-room structure presently on the site has a Vaishno Devi idol inside and the plan was to erect a much bigger shrine there.

The existing Hindu shrine alongwith the site belonged to a local Hindu family for several decades until both it and other neighbouring property was acquired by the state government in 1988, which then destroyed all structures in the area except the tiny shrine in a beautification project.

Officials here said the state government would not allow a new Hindu shrine to be built on the site.

Gurcharan Singh Tohra, president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, regarded as Sikhdom's religious parliament, said it was another attempt to harm minority communities, following on from the destruction last month of a Muslim mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu fanatics.

The destruction of the mosque sparked communal violence between Hindu and Muslim groups which has left hundreds dead and is continuing in Bombay.

Police Accused of Aiding Hindu Attacks on Muslims

BK1401072193 Hong Kong AFP in English 0635 GMT 14 Jan 93

[by M.R. Narayanswamy]

[Text] BOMBAY, Jan 14 (AFP)—Police turned a blind eye to many of the attacks on Muslims by followers of a Hindu militant group during the past week of communal fury which rocked Bombay, residents and political leaders charged Thursday [14 January].

In some cases, members of Bombay's Hindu-dominated police force even took part in assaults on Muslims in this western Indian metropolis of more than 12 million people, they said.

Hindu groups linked to the militant Shiv Sena (Lord Shiva's Army) have been blamed by residents for the bulk of the attacks on Muslim homes and shops which left scores of people dead and forced thousands of others to flee. The Shiv Sena, which advocates aggressive Hindu revivalism and wields considerable influence in Bombay, makes no effort to hide its pathological hatred for Muslims.

Officials admit that the Shiv Sena have infiltrated Bombay's 33,000-strong police force and many policemen share its bias.

The authorities themselves accused the notorious Bombay underworld of fuelling much of the communal

violence which engulfed nearly the entire city for the first time since independence in 1947.

The Shiv Sena is the only Hindu group which publicly welcomed the December 6 razing by Hindu extremists of the 16th century Babri mosque in Ayodhya. The destruction of the mosque, which the Shiv Sena and other Hindu groups claim was built on the ruins of a Hindu temple, sparked five days of communal violence across India which left more than 1,150 people dead. Hindu-Muslim clashes flared again in Bombay on January 5, crippling India's commercial nervecentre and leaving hundreds dead.

Mahendra Singh, a local communist leader, said the Shiv Sena, its ally the Bharatiya Janata Party, and Muslim fundamentalists contributed to the Bombay mayhem. "After the Ayodhya incident, communal propoganda went on unabated," he said.

Bombay's sheriff, F.T. Khorakiwalla, pointed the finger at the Shiv Sena. "They started it and one thing led to another," he told AFP.

The mainly Muslim victims of the riots have accused the police of being mute spectators when Hindu mobs went on the rampage, killing Muslims and looting and torching their homes and shops.

Muslims hit back but on a much smaller scale. "When we tried to defend ourselves, the police also attacked us." said drug-store owner Samad Khan, a Muslim. Sajid Rashid, a Muslim journalist, said many Muslims who phoned the police for help were rebuffed.

Government official Abuli Munim, a Muslim, added: "A stage has been reached when Bombay policemen openly say we wear khaki on the outside, but saffron on the inside." Saffron is the colour of Hindu militancy. Police were accused of being trigger-happy last month when Muslims took to the streets to protest the mosque's demolition.

But during the latest violence, when Hindu militants were on the rampage, the same policemen showed a reluctance to open fire, residents said. "In many places, the police have abetted or participated in the rioting and the pillage," a group of leading Indian editors said in an open letter to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on Wednesday.

Sudhakar Naik, chief minister of Maharashtra state, of which Bombay is the capital, blamed the razing of the mosque for the communal rage. But he said there were other factors too. "There is the underworld," Naik said, referring to gangs which control Bombay's criminal activity—drug and gold smuggling, protection rackets, gambling, money laundering, prostitution and kidnapping for ransom.

"I have proof of all this. I know why this is going on," he said.

Police said the two main underworld gangs had used the rioting to settle old scores, and in the words of one official, "to commit murders which they know will never get investigated."

Sources said a prominent underworld don was intercepted by an army patrol while travelling in a car along with a Shiv Sena lawmaker Monday. Both were let off by the police.

Officials noted that a dropoff in the scale of violence coincided with Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackeray's call Tuesday for an end to the fighting. Thackeray said "enough is enough," declaring that Muslims had been taught a lesson.

Forces at Border on Alert Against Infiltration

BK1301164493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1639 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Jammu, India, Jan 13 (AFP)—Indian forces along the Kashmir border with Pakistan have been alerted against a possible large scale infiltration of armed militants, a state government spokesman here said Wednesday [13 January].

The decision was taken after Jammu and Kashmir governor Girish Saxena met with senior army officers here to review the situation in the northern border state.

Some 500 armed Muslim militants fighting for the secession of India's only Muslim-majority state have crossed the border recently and more are expected to follow, the spokesman said citing intelligence information.

India alleges Pakistan is providing arms and military training to the militants. Islamabad has rejected the charge, saying that it only extends moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris right to self-determination.

The two neighbours have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since their 1947 independence from British colonial rule.

Exports Increase; Trade Deficit Passes $3 Billion

BK1301151793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] India's exports have gone up by 5.9 percent but imports shot up by 18.7 percent. An official press release says that the exports crossed $11,500 million during April-November period last year—an increase of about $640 million. The imports during the period were over $14,600 million—an increase of over $2,300 million over the imports during the same period in the year before. The trade deficit has doubled during the period crossing the $3,000 million.

New Securities, Exchange Rules Announced

BK1201163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The portfolio management has been brought under the purview of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI. In a notification issued today, the SEBI also announced rules and regulations for the portfolio managers. This is to ensure a high standard of integrity and fairness in all the dealings between portfolio managers and investors. The regulations include registration with SEBI and the ban on accepting money or securities for a period less than one year. The rules also debar deployment of the portfolio management funds in bill discounting, badla [exchange] financing, or even lending to corporate and noncorporate bodies.

Completion of Arjun Tank Project Urged

BK1301104193 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 Jan 93 p 8

[Article by Mavendra Singh: "India and its tanks"]

[Text] There is a quip in the Army, and cynical enough to reflect what soldiers think of one machine. It pertains to the Vijayanta tank, and goes something like, 'no two Vijayantas are the same'. To take it as a mere joke would be a great folly, for it gives an idea of India's experience in making a tank of its own. The Vijayanta was a disaster, everybody knows that. What happened subsequently was shocking; production stopped even while hundreds of Vijayantas were in service. India must be a rich country to be able to terminate an established manufacturing line making all that expensive tooling redundant. No country has yet done that because logic (and economics) calls for the evolution of technology and information. What has been learnt in Project X is used for the next stage, X-1, so that all investment in machines, plants, and trained manpower remains useful. But not so in India, where expense is no problem, the Government will start all over again, discarding machinery and knowledge. So what happens to Vijayanta spare parts? The Army cannibalises from depots frantically like a beggar. If for nothing else, it is for this reason alone, that the Main Battle Tank (MBT) Project Arjun must succeed.

MBT Arjun is the closest India has come to designing as its own product. Granted, it is not 100 per cent Indian but there is a reason for that. When the idea of fielding an Indian MBT was first mooted in the early seventies Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) gave figures, plans and commitment which its experience clearly did not suggest optimism. The project, not surprisingly, floundered for almost a decade, while funds kept getting consumed. It was only in the mid-eighties that some firmness was shown because the Army put its foot down. It decided, that DRDO having spent ten years trying to learn tank technology, and getting nowhere, it was time to put together a hybrid. Import components and systems which India (read DRDO) had not been able to develop. Time had come when there had to have something on the road, than nothing at all.

A tank appeared soon thereafter, the biggest that India had dealt with. And promptly, detractors declared it unwieldy, forgetting, a tank means armour, firepower and mobility. In designing a tank, there is constant compromising on some point or the other until a minimum acceptable balance is achieved. MBT Arjun is big for some fundamental reasons. It has the best armour in the world, the first step to inspire confidence amongst those inside the tank. Also a powerful 1400 bhp German MTU engine. This gives the 58-ton tank phenomenal acceleration. It also allows to carry a bigger calibre gun, and a jungle of electronics for accuracy. Therefore, Arjun is protected on four counts: its unrivalled armour, superior mobility, ability to fire rapidly and accurately. Sounds perfect, but alas it is not. The project has flaws.

Over the years, while the various prototypes were under test, DRDO did nothing to 'Indianise' the foreign components. It has continued with the project unmindful of lessons revealed by T-72 production. By contract, India still has a few hundred T-72s, its interim MBT, to manufacture. The agreement, of course, did not envision the dissolution of Soviet Union, and therefore, naturally, production has suffered drastically. Supplies of vital parts are just not available to keep output at the required level. At the same time, T-72 is of the age where updates are now mandatory. The country cannot allow itself to be caught in the same predicament. Since Arjun is in the first phase of its development, it is only logical to contract Indian companies to develop engines for future models. As is well known, technology evolves; and then there is the added benefit of having a fall-back option, an Indian one at that. The same holds true for other systems as well to ensure guaranteed suppliers. It is not too late for DRDO to float tenders et al, and get Indian industry involved in Project Arjun. The aim, after all, must be to indigenise the Indian MBT.

Project Arjun highlights many fauits in the functioning of DRDO. The Army is aware of these, as are the conscientious in DRDO.

There are some in the Army who believe that DRDO is not interested in completing the project, for then many would lose their jobs. While that may be a bit harsh, DRDO's disposition does leave a lot to be desire. It cannot rest on laurels permitted by the success of its missile programme. That was all because of team work, inspired and directed by the leader. The same has not been the case with Project Arjun, with DRDO and the user, the Army, working at different paces, and many a time, at cross-purposes. The Army must always have the last word in design changes, after all it is the Army which will be using Arjun in combat.

Another round of trials is in the offing, to be followed later by user trials. It should finally dawn upon the cynics that MBT Arjun has come a long way. All creations, after all, grow and develop, and cannot be written off until the

terminal stage has been reached. And Arjun is clearly ions [word as published] from that point. Therefore, it must be ensured that trials are taken to their logical end, that is, the user expresses confidence in MBT Arjun. The tank should move rapidly, fire accurately, consistently and safely. There is no point in hurrying through the tests for one fundamental reason, the Army has no money to pay for the tank. Sufficient time is available to make necessary alterations, on the cooling pack, for instance. There can be some delay, which means little in the present circumstances. When decision makers displayed the kind of idiocy as they did with the Vijayanta, the Army had better take its time with testing Arjun prototypes.

By continuing work on prototypes, pre-production models will be that much better. Finally, it is in India's interest that production be contracted to those who can achieve quality, quantity, and cost effectiveness. And as anyone can verify, the Heavy Vehicles Factory does not fit the bill. The current monopoly in defence production is costing the Services quite dearly. The final production of MBT Arjun must take into account manufacturing capabilities of other units as well. There are many with the expertise who can certainly turn out a better final product. Their potential needs to be tapped to the fullest because Arjun is too vital a project to be handled with slothfulness

So, why the Arjun? Simply, because the country has no other choice. With limited resources it can no longer afford to purchase off-the-shelf. Indulgent procurement over the years has drained the country, and a stop has to be made somewhere. MBT Arjun is an opportunity at taking that first step. More significant, however, is that India must have a tank of its own. Once the country is able to field a tank that has been designed in India the psychologists and accountants will verify the benefits.

Thai Company Allowed Deep Sea Fishing Project

BK1001090693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The Center has cleared a 360-crore rupee deep sea fishing project. The proposal involves a 100 percent foreign equity investment by a Thailand-based fishing company. The secretary in the Food Processing Industry Ministry, Mr. S.L. Kapoor, disclosed this to our correspondent, S. Sudharshanam, in an interview in New Delhi. The scheme envisages the setting up of projects to process marine and shrimp products in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. Mr. Kapoor said that after the completion of the first phase of the scheme in four years, the project would achieve an export target of one billion dollars.

Iran

Reactions to 13 Jan Air Attack on Iraq Reported

Iraq Blamed for Area U.S., Western Presence

NC1401064693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0455 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] You were informed in the news of how last week's developments in Iraq's relations with the West led to last night's air attack by the United States, Britain, and France on southern Iraq. Analyzing these incidents and Iraq's objectives, various assumptions have been voiced. It is said that in view of the transition of power from the current U.S. President to President- elect Clinton, Iraq intended to seize the opportunity to save face in the Persian Gulf and to stabilize its position, at least in the political-propaganda field.

Apparently, Saddam's government assumed that in his last days in the White House, Bush would not risk a military attack on Iraq. Analysts believe that Baghdad also intended to test Clinton's policies and to compile its own based on Clinton's stances on the current incidents. It is also said that among Baghdad's other objectives was to find a way onto the international scene.

Last night's attacks on southern Iraq showed that Baghdad has made a mistake in its calculations again and, with its hegemony, granted the necessary pretexts to the United States and its Western allies for an active presence in the region in the same way that during the Persian Gulf war, Iraq's miscalculations, Baghdad's excessive demands, and its aggression against Kuwait led to a U.S. military expedition in the region.

Hours after the air attack on southern Iraq, Washington stated it was to strengthen its ground forces in the region. After the Persian Gulf war, by propagandizing about regional insecurity and by exploiting Iraqi stances, the White House signed several military pacts worth astronomic figures with the Arab states of the Persian Gulf and profited by billions of dollars in its arms deals with these countries.

It seems that out of the current incidents and crisis, in the coming months the area will witness a U.S. military presence on the pretext of Kuwait's insecurity and the signing of other similar pacts. Assessing the current crisis, analysts again stress one point: Saddam's policies in the region have ensured only the interests of the West and created more problems for the region's nations.

Islamic World Seen To 'Pay Penalty'

LD1401140893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMMT 14 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The attacks of dozens of U.S., British and French fighter-aircraft against certain targets in southern and northern Iraq has placed the question of Iraq and the West's performance vis-a-vis that country in the limelight and attracted the analysis of political forums.

Yesterday's allied air raid against Iraq—though predictable judging from the tone of the remarks made and the behavior shown by Western officials during the past few days—took place this time under circumstances that completely differed with the extensive attacks carried out by the allies to liberate Kuwait.

Two years ago, the allied attack against Iraq was given relative legitimacy because of the occupation of Kuwait and most of the world's countries supported the action to end occupation. Even those groups of countries that harbored doubts about the intentions of Western countries, somehow counted the liberation of Kuwait as a legitimate right.

In the latest air attacks, even though the behavior of the Iraqi Government in providing the West with a pretext cannot be ignored, it is, however, the way the United States and its Western allies have operated in the past two years that has made some countries desist from the military actions taken by the allies.

Moreover, it has even led them to closely analyze the performance of the West. The U.S, British, and French air raids against Iraq on the pretext that Iraq has violated UN resolutions raises the question of whether these resolutions are not being violated elsewhere, and if they are, why are they not being confronted in a similar way? [passage omitted]

The air raids of Western governments on the excuse that they are implementing the UN resolutions without that organization's endorsement has raised further questions, such as: Will this behavior be at the basis of a new trend in the future international order? Western countries have put themselves forward as authorities to interpret the UN resolutions and their behavior shows that they consider it as their prerogative to assume the role of international gendarme.

Meanwhile, in the light of the consequences of the latest attack against Iraq by Western countries, it could regretfully be said that it is the world of Islam which pays the penalty for the miscalculated moves by Iraq and its exploitation by the West. The leaders of Iraq, have, in the past 10 years, through their miscalculations, destroyed the material and human resources of their own country as well as the infrastructural resources of Iran and Kuwait and inflicted damage on the financial resources of other countries of the Persian Gulf.

Western countries too, who look at the mistakes made by Iraqi leaders as good opportunities to be exploited politicaly to extend their influence as well as to gains huge economic benefits, are administrating rather than putting an end to the Iraqi crisis and thus keeping afloat this situation.

Two years ago when the uprising of the Muslim people of Iraq was set to topple Baghdad's regime, the forces of the Western allies acted in such a way that it resulted in Saddam remaining in power in Iraq and the crisis continuing in that country.

U.S. Seen To Gain From Iraq's Mistakes

LD1401114793 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA—The Persian daily HAMSHAHRI said in a commentary on the allied attack Wednesday [13 January] night on southern Iraq that the U.S. was trying to capitalize on Iraq's mistakes for strengthening its military presence in the Persian Gulf.

It said Washington that has long since been wishing a widespread military presence in the Persian Gulf has benefitted best from Iraq's aggressive policies, while the peoples of the region have sufferred the most loss as the result of military encounters during the past two years.

The commentary said the U.S. was looking at the Persian Gulf oil as a source capable of offering it a leverage on the international scene in the absence of the cold war in Europe.

HAMSHAHRI said the U.S. was hopeful that it would eventually exercise control on the region's oil and the waters that offer a conduit for oil exports from the Persian Gulf. It added that Iraq has offered the best possible ground for the U.S to materialize the same goal.

The most bitter aspect of the development however, said the daily, is the ignorance of the governments of the region and their childish fantasies which make them overlook the true import of the current chain of regional developments which is going to hand in the total wealth of the peoples of the region to the United States.

The commentary said however, that "the firm resolve of the peoples of the region, led by Iran's resisting people will eventually get the better of those devices and will have peace and stability reign throughout the region."

President: Support for Regime Deters U.S. Attack

LD1401125493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, you were informed by this news bulletin that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today

arrived in Esfahan to pay a visit to the Esfahan Governorate-General. We draw your attention to the full report of this visit which we received moments ago from our Esfahan center.

[Unidentified correspondent] This morning President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Esfahan where he was officially welcomed at the airport by Ayatollah Taheri, representative of the Supreme Jurisconsult and Friday prayer leader of Esfahan, provincial Governor-General Jahangiri, military and security commanders, directors and chiefs of government departments and organs, clerics and teachers of the Esfahan seminaries.

On arrival, regarding the objective of his visit to Esfahan, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The objective is to meet the people, the honorable ulema, the self-sacrificing families and officials of the province. Also we would like to inspect the situation of the province. Meanwhile, a number of important economic projects have come to fruition, so I have come to inspect them. Here I must say that our original objective was to visit all the towns of the province. However, because of the fact that the province is so vast and in view of availabe time I cannot go to all towns. I shall see several towns. God willing, in the next visits we will have opportunities to make up for it. [end recording]

After his arrival in Esfahan, the president, amid enthusiastic welcome by the people, went to the Takhti sports stadium where he met the families of self-sacrificing cadres. [passage omitted]

Later, addressing the families of the martyrs, the injured, the MIA and the former POWs at the 17th Shahrivar Hall of Takhti Stadium, the president said: [announcer-read] You cannot find such a gathering in this world—a congregation of valuable, great, humane and self-sacrificing individuals. [passage omitted]

Referring to the martyrs of the war and revolution the president said: They are the real victors of the battle of life. Nobody and no official has been able to conquer as much as the martyr. No effort and no jihad can be compared to that of those who have sacrificed a piece of their own bodies.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani later went to Imam Square. The square, which covers more than 70,000 square meters, was full of enthusiastic people who, in unison, shouted their support for the president.

Acknowledging the people's enthusiasm, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: I do not know how to thank you for so much sincerity and feelings. One can describe your feelings only by being a witness to them. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We are highly heartened by being a witness to your presence on the scene and your faith in the revolution and your effort to boost the morale of the country's officials. I must admit that our strength stems from that very fact. Your great gathering here and the sincerity which you show cannot be hidden from the eyes of the world observers. Those whose hearts are full of hatred towards us, will learn better and give up casting a covetous eye on us. We shall reconstruct our country by such a capital. Through your support we can have the world listen to what we have to say. If the relationship of the Iraqi Government with its people was like our people's relationship with the officials, the United States would never dream of attacking that country.

The president said: When the people's hearts and feelings are divergent on one path, then what result can the enemies have from military bombing? Our revolution is supported by your hearts and fists. [passage omitted]

Expiry of OIC Deadline to UN on Bosnia Viewed

LD1401105593 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA—Two morning dailies Thursday [14 January] commented on the expiry of the month-long ultimatum to the UN Security Council by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to take military action against the Serbian aggressors and lift the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' wrote that it was the natural right of the Islamic countries to consider military action against the Serbian criminals while 'ABRAR' said the January 15 deadline, was the beginning of a new era to formulate a political attitude and even establish common structures in the Islamic world.

JOMHURI said it was not yet quite clear what decisions the Islamic world would take at the end of the deadline but under such circumstances, the Cairo regime, itself an OIC contact group member, recently confiscated a ship carrying weapons for the Bosnians. This means that Egypt, has in fact rushed to the help of the savage Serbs and deprived the oppressed Bosnians of the arms they require to defend their lives and honor, the paper said.

"This is taking place under conditions that the severe cold and hunger in Bosnia has taken the lives of hundreds of Bosnians and a large number of Muslim children and women are facing certain death."

The paper regretted that the contemporary world adopted "relatively acceptable" political stands on the Bosnian catastrophe but that it was never so serious and effective in executing its decisions.

ABRAR said the United Nations has, today, taken a new role of defending human rights, while enjoying the pressure levers of the professional Western militarists, the U.S. in particular. "The U.N. has turned into a

Western club whose members do not hesitate in implementing their own views. The club views that the hotbeds must be removed so as a universal security, of the kind demanded by the West, is established."

"The OIC, with over 45 U.N. members, does not enjoy any power. But five countries make decisions and implement them because they have the pressure levers and executive mechanisms at their disposal," it said.

"The OIC can establish the biggest political and Islamic unity in the world within the United Nations organization once it goes ahead decisively in the new arena which it has created for itself."

"One billion world Muslims have focussed their eyes on their statesmen (expecting them) to stop the massacre of their brothers and sisters in the Bosnian blood-land."

ABRAR said the OIC would accomplish a new experience in which fear, discord and difference would be meaningless once it adopts a serious stance.

Israel Has 'Victory of Sorts' After Expulsions

LD1401094893 Tehran IRNA in English 0911 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA—A Tehran daily Thursday [14 January] commented that although the expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza may have caused some embarrassment and pushed U.N. Security Council to reluctantly pass a resolution, it provided an opportunity for Yitzhaq Rabin and his generals to calculate the incident as "a victory of sorts."

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial noted that Israel and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had equally benefitted from the expulsion, adding that the PLO's Yasir 'Arafat too had nothing to lose.

"Israel's decision to order a collective punishment for some of the most popular figures in the Gaza and West Bank, not affiliated to the Palestine Liberation Organization, in no way contradicts with what the chairman had in mind," said the article.

Almost one month ago, the Zionist regime ordered the "temporary removal" of a number of distinguished and popular Palestinians, including doctors, engineers, professors, university students and preachers from the West Bank and Gaza.

The daily stressed that in spite of some noises made by the Arab League, the United Nations and the European Community, Yitzhaq Rabin had a strong reason to be proud of.

"If nothing else, he has notoriously succeeded in creating another buffer zone, since after the Dec. 17 expulsion, no major anti-Israeli attack by liberation fighters in southern Lebanon has been reported," wrote the daily.

Given the combined Lebanese-Palestinian concern over the harsh conditions the deportees were subjected to in 'Marj al-Zohur', the obvious priority was to garner international support to reverse the Israeli decision and not let the issue drag on without a binding resolution, noted the daily.

The editorial added that with the attention focussed on the plight of the expelled civilians, revolutionaries had taken time for evaluation in order not to endanger the lives of the deportees and, consequently, attacks on Zionist military positions had almost ceased.

Over the months 'Arafat had tried but failed to convince the 'Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] leadership to stop attacks on Israel's military positions and join the "political process" to liberate the occupied territories, it said.

Last month 'Arafat told an Italian journalist that he had problems with Hamas and criticized the Zionist regime for arresting only Fatah people. He called on Israel to do "more about the Hamas problem. Rabin got the message and did accordingly, with pleasure," concluded the daily.

Economic 'Friendship Groups' Planned With Brazil

LD1301142793 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 13, IRNA—Iran's Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri, and the visiting chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission of Brazil here Wednesday [13 January] agreed to create joint parliamentary friendship groups for elevating economic relations between Iran and Brazil.

Nateq-Nuri also indicated that the projected groups within the parliaments of the two countries would help offset the "insinuations of the world arrogance."

The parliamentary speaker of Iran said the country is willing and able to raise mutual trade exchanges between the two countries, now standing at dlrs. [dollars] 1.2 billion annually, to dlrs. two billion.

He also expressed hope that the financial problems on the way of the Karun-III power plant and irrigation project in Iran undertaken by Brazilian contractors would shortly be overcome.

In his other meeting Wednesday with Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, the visiting Brazilian official expressed pleasure with his visit to Tehran and expressed the intent of Brazil's congress to broaden relations with Iran and exchange delegations between the two countries.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official welcomed Brazil's bid for more involvement in Iran's national development projects and noted that the projected friendship groups would promote the purposes of both countries.

Foreign Investment in Qeshm Island at $10 Billion

LD1001140693 Tehran IRNA in English 1325 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—The volume of foreign investment in Iran's free trade zone Qeshm Island, the largest island in the Persian Gulf, has so far amounted to dlrs. [dollars] 10 billion.

Secretary of Iran-Italy Chamber of Commerce Amir-Hushang Shirzadi here Saturday [9 January] said that in order to further acquaint Iranian and Italian businessmen with the potentials in Qeshm, industrial and trade-oriented tours would be arranged for visiting the area.

A team of 40 Iranian entrepreneurs active in export of non-oil products and interested in investment on the island, paid a two-day visit to the zone last week.

Shirzadi noted that the infrastructural facilities of the island, its roads, rich natural gas resources as well as its suitable location for building jetties had attracted foreign companies, especially steel industries in Japan and Iranian businessmen abroad.

Three Killed in Military Helicopter Crash

LD1201133093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] A helicopter belonging to the army's Havaniruz [Ground Force's Air Units] has crashed in the course of duty, while taking assistance to flood victims in the town of Kahnuj, in Kerman province, killing its two pilots and the one crew member. At the [unspecified] time of the crash, the helicopter was transporting over 10 tonnes of food and medicine and also involved in rescuing a number of flood victims.

A funeral procession was held for the crash victims in Kerman today in the presence of provincial officials and military and law enforcement commanders. Their blessed remains were then transfered to Tehran.

Pakistan

Emergency UN Meeting Urged To Discuss Iraq Raid

BK1401084293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan has urged the UN Security Council to meet on an emergency basis to discuss the situation arising out of allied air raid on Iraq. The call was made by the special assistant to the prime minister, Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, while making a statement to the National Assembly today. Expressing deep concern at the events that led to allied raid on Iraq, Pakistan has also called for avoiding use of force and pleaded that the differences over interpretation of the UN resolutions should be resolved through discussions. Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan declared Pakistan's unequivocal support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Kuwait and Iraq. He said Pakistan deplores the official statements made from Baghdad which claimed Kuwait as its territory. He said Pakistan also urged the Security Council to discuss in an even-handed manner similar situations such as Bosnia, Palestine and occupied Kashmir.

The special assistant to the prime minister said the government fully shared the concern expressed by the house. As a matter of fact, the prime minister canceled all his engagements last night to consider the situation arising out of the raid by allied forces on Iraq, and even today, a high-level meeting with the prime minister in the chair is being held. The nation would be taken into confidence about the decisions taken in the meeting. He assured the house the government would not ignore the interests and foreign policy objectives of the country. Chaudhary Nazir Ahmed Wirk, JI, [Jamaat-i-Islami] severely criticized the United States and said it is indulging in international terrorism. Later, the assembly was prorogued after passing the Banking Tribunals Amendment Bill, 1992.

Muslim World Warned About U.S. 'Neo-Imperialism'

BK1401085593 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 14 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Humiliation of Iraq"]

[Text] After the elimination of the Soviet Union as a superpower, it is now the aim of the American strategists to destroy all Muslim states that have the potential to develop into mini local powers sufficiently strong to challenge US hegemony in the Middle East. The US policy makers have identified Iran, Libya, Iraq, Syria and Pakistan as those that, if given the chance, could develop into states with the military potential to check US imperialism in the oil rich States of the Gulf region. One of the excuses America invents is to call these states terrorists and then they feel free to take whatever military action they deem fit. While they have failed to subdue Iran or Libya they have succeded partially in toning down their strident opposition to the US.

In dealing with Iraq the US State Department has demonstrated its whole bag of tricks in first luring Iraq to attack Kuwait and then launching the most deadly mass attack on Iraq to smash its military strength and potential. Even after reducing Iraq to rubble they have yet to eliminate Saddam and now all their efforts are directed against the remotest possibility of Iraq staging a comeback. The US picked on the presence of some old useless missiles in the arbitrarily demarcated 'Air Exclusion Zone' as an excuse to give Iraq an ultimatum to remove these missiles or else face UN military action. It now transpires that the UN alleged that while there were

some indications that the missiles have been moved it is yet too early to say whether all have been removed or not. This means that the US operating under the guise of the UN can at any time launch a punitive attack against Iraq.

Now the UN is complaining of another violation of the cease-fire agreement. It is alleged that Iraqi troops have entered Kuwait to remove all they could lay hands on and take away weapons from military installations within a few miles of the Iraqi-Kuwait border. The Iraqis say that they were given up to January 15 to remove all their moveable property left behind in Kuwait when Iraqi troops hurriedly withdrew during the Desert Storm operation. They allege that they are only retrieving what rightfully belongs to them and which is allowed by the UN.

The UN Council demands that all missiles taken away by the Iraqis from Kuwait should be returned to the UN forces, or else military action will be taken to recover these weapons. The Desert Storm proved the uselessness of these Iraqi missiles and now those taken away by Iraq are being made an excuse to further humiliate and demoralise Iraq. It is regrettable that Pakistan should also join this chorus for the destruction of a Muslim state that has already been punished most severely. We do not condone all that Iraq might have done in the past, but the least that one can expect is that the Muslim world will stand united against the machination of the neo-imperialism of the US and other Western states.

Allegations of Terrorism Said 'Totally Unfounded'

BK1301151193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, told the National Assembly this morning that there are no grounds for any country to declare Pakistan as a supporter of terrorism. Responding to a call-attention notice, he said the fact that Pakistan has not been placed on such a list by the United States is an indication of this realization in Washington that Pakistan is not involved in terrorist activities. He said this also proves that allegations being leveled against Pakistan are totally unfounded. The minister said Pakistan, during discussions with the U.S. Government, has drawn a clear distinction between legitimate political support for the just struggle for self-determination in Kashmir and allegations of being involved in terrorist activities. He said Pakistan has proposed posting international observers on the both sides of the Line of Control and urged the U.S. administration as well as international human rights organizations to look into the atrocities being perpetrated by the Indian forces in held Kashmir. Mr. Kanjoo said Pakistan condemns and opposes terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Pakistan has signed a number of international conventions on terrorism and has publicly committed itself to the suppression of terrorism. He said we believe that terrorism is abhorrent and tarnishes any just struggle of freedom movement. He emphasized that a distinction must be made between a just and honorable freedom struggle and the recourse to terrorist tactics. The minister of state for foreign affairs said as regard the charge of terrorism, it must be directed to the state terrorism that is being perpetrated on the people of occupied Kashmir through repression and grave violation of human rights by Indian forces. These acts have been condemned by human rights organizations throughout the world, including the Amnesty International and Asia Watch. The recent incident in Sopor in occupied Kashmir, where unarmed civilians were brutally martyred by Indian troops, is just one incident highlighting the cruelty unleashed by the Indian forces. He said Pakistan considers Kashmiri liberation struggle as just, honorable, and based on the UN Charter. The Kashmiris' struggle is self-sustained and unrelenting. The minister said Pakistan will continue to provide moral, diplomatic, and political support to the cause of Kashmir and Kashmiri people for their just right of self-determination pledged to them through Security Council resolutions. The Kashmiris have also the right to defend themselves against Indian terrorism, brutal oppression, and grave violation of human rights. The call-attention notice was given by Mr. Liaqat Baloch, Raja Mohammad Zahir Khan, and Chaudhary Nazir Ahmad Wirk.

Later, a bill aimed at prohibiting and discouraging sectarianism and sectarian prejudices was introduced in the house. The bill prohibits formation of all kinds of sectarian associations, organizations and groups. It also prohibits propagation of sectarianism. The bill provides for imprisonment up to five years or fine or both for elements indulging in such acts. The house also unanimously adopted the Criminal Law Fifth Amendment Bill. The bill, piloted by Federal Minister for Law and Justice Chaudhary Abdul Ghafoor, seeks to amend Section 392 of Pakistan Penal Code providing equal punishment of highway robbery whether committed during night or broad daylight. Mr. Liaqat Baloch, Syed Zafar Ali Shah, and Mr. Rafiq Ahmad Maheshar spoke on the bill. The house will now meet tomorrow morning.

Industries Minister Meets With Polish Counterpart

BK1401030493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Poland has expressed its desire to benefit from Pakistan's experience of a free economy. This was stated by Waclaw Niewiarowski, the visiting Polish minister of trade and industry, when he met with Federal Industries Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in Islamabad yesterday. He said Poland is also pursuing the privatization policy and its heavy industry has already been handed over to the private sector. Both sides agreed to start joint ventures in various fields, including shipping and railways.

New Chief of Army Staff Waheed Profiled

BK1401061193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Jan 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] Peshawar—A Peshawarite belonging to the family of Pakistan Movement leader, Sardat Abdur Rab Nishtar, has become the 11th Chief of Army Staff.

Born in Peshawar in 1937, Gen Abdul Waheed Kakar was rarely mentioned in newspaper reports which speculated about the new Chief of Army Staff [COAS] to replace Gen. Asif Nawaz following the letter's death on January 8. He was the proverbial dark horse as proved by events. Probably his posting in Quetta, capital of Pakistan's largest but most neglected and remote province had something in do with the fact that the media didn't focus on him.

Known as a simple and truthful person in Peshawar, Gen. Waheed still doesn't own a house. The family house in the old city in Peshawar is jointly owned. Brig. (Retd) Hayat, with whom Waheed served in to Frontier Force in NWFP [North West Frontier Province], said he returned a 800-yard residential plot allotted to him on Peshawar's posh Shami Road. The reason reportedly cited by Waheed was that he didn't want people to say that he had gained something for his person.

The Kakar tribe to whichs Gen. Waheed belongs is one of the biggest Pakhtoon tribes. The Kakars inhabit mostly Balochistan and parts of Afghanistan. They have a small presence in Peshawar city, the best known Kakar family being that of Sardat Abdur Rab Nishtar. Waheed's father was a cousin of Nishtar. The Nishtars and their cousins are well-placed in various fields of life. Nishtar's son, Jamil Nishtar, headed the Agricultural Development Bank when he died a few years ago. Shah Ghayur, a nephew of Sardat Nishtar, is now the SSP [Senior Superintendent of Police] Peshawar. Waheed's brother, Abdur Raaheed, too is a high ranking engineer in WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority]

Waheed is not the only Kakar General in the Pakistan Army. His cousin, Major General Bilal Kakar is another. Unfortunately, Bilal is still in comma after a road accident sometime back.

The Nishtars and their Kakar cousins have left a mark on Peshawar and its socials and political life. Sadar Nishtar led the Muslim League in NWFP at a time when Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's Khudai (?Khidundgar) movement was the strongest political force in the province. Nishtar now has a whole locality named after him in Pashawar and is respected as an honest politician.

Gen. Waheed is related to PPP [Pakistan People's Party] provincial chief Artab Sherpao through his cousin married to him. Mr. Sherpao's wife is a sister of SSP Peshawar Sifat Ghayur, whose father Sardar Ghayur was a cousin of Waheed's father. On the other hand, Gen. Waheed's daughter is married to a son of late Lt. Gen. Afzaal, who died as Chief of General Staff in the C-180 air crash along with Gen. Ziaul Haq. Afzaal's brother Mian Iqbal was a top PML [Pakistan Muslim League] leader until his death a couple of years ago. It is interesting to mention that both Gen. Waheed's son and son-in-law are engineers. Waheed's wife is from the Khilji family in Peshawar.

A student of Edwardes College Peshawar, Waheed graduated from the Pakistan Military Academy, Kakul in 1959 in the 19th long course. His fluent English has something to do with the high standards of Edwardes College at that time when some of the best British teachers like Prof. Close taught the language.

Waheed's distinguished military career could be gauged from the fact that he stood first in the entrance examination for the Staff College, Queeta, in 1970 and by virtue of that was slected to attend a one-year staff course in Canada in 1971.

Waheed has held many staff and command appointments. Not many people may know that he was wounded in the battle for Chawinda in the 1965 war. He was hit by a bullet in the thigh while commanding a Frontier Force company and had to be hospitalised.

As a Brigadier, Waheed was the chief of staff to Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Rahimuddin in Quetta in early 1980s. Most people used to observe that Waheed was virtually the Corps Commander since Rahimuddin was holding a dual charge as Governor of Balochistan and most of his time was spent in discharging his gubernatorial duties. Waheed later commanded the same corps in Quetta, a position he held till his appointment as COAS. Earlier he remained the Adjutant General.

Gen. Waheed is by and large known as a professional soldier, moulded in the tradition bequeathed by the late Gen. Asif Nawaz. He probably had no lobby working for him, a fact which may have clinched his selection as the COAS. Known for his soldierly qualities, Gen. Waheed as an infantryman was perhaps best suited to command the fifth biggest army in the world.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Guerrillas Willing To Negotiate Key Demands

BK1401131093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1157 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Colombo, Jan 14 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas were willing to negotiate on their key demand for a separate state to end Sri Lanka's long drawn ethnic bloodshed, the bishop of Colombo said Thursday [14 January] after a meeting with top rebel leaders.

Anglican Bishop Kenneth Fernando told reporters here that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) wanted a negotiated political settlement and appeared to be willing to settle for something less than a separate state.

He asked the Colombo government to reciprocate to the LTTE's "gesture of goodwill" in freeing two police from their custody following his visit to the LTTE's main northern Jaffna peninsula.

The bishop said he and two other bishops had a two-hour meeting with LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran in the Jaffna town over the weekend. The Tigers agreed to free the two policemen after these talks, he said.

"They did not tell me that the demand for Eelam (a separate state) is not negotiable. If it was not, we would not have had anything to discuss ... We spoke for two hours," he said hours after returning from Jaffna by air.

He said he met several government figures and the head of a parliamentary select committee appointed by the government to find a political package to end the conflict before he undertook the mission.

Tamil civilians in Jaffna were undergoing "untold hardships" because of an economic blockade by the government and actions of the LTTE which is dominating the peninsula, he said.

"I am having a biscuit for the first time in 10 days today because there are no biscuits in Jaffna," Fernando said, adding that he hoped that the list of banned items to the peninsula be reduced.

The military has prohibited taking 48 items into the area, including sweets, soya products and fuel and dry cells.

"I have a way of communicating with the LTTE leadership through the Red Cross. I will definitely go there very soon," the bishop said, adding that Prabhakaran invited him to bring along a group of Sinhalese intellectuals.

Tiger guerrillas are leading a 20-year-old guerrilla campaign in the island's northeast where thousands have died.

Exchange Amount for Travel Abroad Increased

BK1301135293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The quantum of foreign exchange available for travel abroad to Sri Lankan residents and nonresidents has been increased by 50 percent. The Exchange Control Department has announced that the holiday allowance per annum to the Indian Subcontinent has been increased from $800 to $1,200. The holiday allowance to all other countries has been increased from $7,500 to $11,250. Those going abroad for education purposes will receive the enhanced foreign exchange facilities. Primary, secondary, undergraduate and postgraduate students to SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries and Myanmar [Burma] will receive foreign exchange in Indian rupees, while those to United Kingdom will receive in pounds sterling. Students traveling to Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and USA will received the enhanced foreign exchange quantum in U.S. dollars. The Exchange Control Department says that the 50 percent increase in the quantum of foreign exchange allowance will also be applicable for business travel purposes. In the case of travel for medical treatment abroad, there will be no restrictions on the foreign exchange allowance. The full amount recommended by the doctors will be permitted.

Exporters are permitted to borrow up to 70 percent of the export orders in foreign currency. Nonresident migrants will be permitted to transfer capital up to 750,000 rupees per individual. Sri Lankans living abroad will be permitted to have their full pension remitted.